

Public Libraries

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Organization of Free Public Library Systems in the United States

William Alanson Borden, Westport, Conn.

As the school prepares the child and the youth for the work of his mature life, so is the library his efficient helper in all the problems of that life so long as it remains with him. The one is the supplement of the other and equally necessary in the making of the citizen. Both should be free and absolutely accessible. The school is now within the reach of every child; the library should be made equally accessible to every adult.

The recognition of the public library as a civic necessity even greater than the school has been a growth of the past 60 years. It began naturally in the cities, those nuclei of the intellectual life, but in the two decades just past, with the trolley, the telephone, and the mails, it has extended into every part of the rural community. But in most cases it is only the recognition of the necessity of the library that has extended, not the library itself. This need of extending library privileges into the farming country, although it has been much discussed in all meetings of city librarians these many years, is not a matter to be taken up by the cities, however able or willing they may be, but by the county or by the state, and they should be started and maintained by a county or state tax. Our farmers are not dependent upon the cities, but are fully able to pay their own way.

They need the libraries and the county or state should see that they get them. They need them even more than the cities do, not only because there are more of them than in the cities, but because

their isolation has cut them off from the daily education that the man on the street absorbs from simply being on the street.

But a system of libraries that is intended to cover a county or a state should be organized on a different basis from that that underlies the city library. In a compact city the readers are always able to come to the library; in the country the library must go to the reader. Therefore the country library should be small and to a large extent transportable. No money need be wasted on monumental buildings nor on large collections of unused books. Each district should have one large collection within the reach of all its inhabitants, many would already have such in its principal city and this could generally be used as the central storehouse, but outside of the one main collection, which should contain all the technical and special books likely to be called for, each circulating library should be restricted to the ordinary books of the day, those in regular demand by the people for whom it is instituted. Ordinary books are cheap and if bought in considerable quantities quite cheap; the only books which are expensive are the special ones, those that have but a limited use, and they are usually costly because their field is limited; a few of these in each district, in each county or in each state, would be sufficient to meet all the demands of the people of that district.

This combination of central storehouses, containing special or little used books which would be available for all small libraries, with numerous small branches, delivery stations, and traveling

collections supplying the small communities, is the most modern type of library organization. It is not by any means common as yet, but an approach to it is being gradually introduced into some of the Eastern states, though what might be called the vested interests of the large city libraries in that section of the country make the full working of the system rather difficult.

These city libraries are large. They have been built up on the plan of having on their shelves all the books demanded by the citizens, whether those demands came from large groups or from small ones. The result has been that the same special books, usually expensive ones, always scarce ones, are now found in twenty or thirty of the libraries in many states, all bought with money obtained from taxation, all bought with funds that might better have been used for books in more general demand, and all but one or two of them absolutely useless because the legitimate demands of all the readers of such books in the whole state could have been satisfied by one or two copies had those copies been in some central storehouse accessible to each library in the state.

These thousands of duplicated books now stand upon the shelves of the city libraries in silent financial protest against any state organization that shall render them useless and the money spent for them wasted.

There are other problems, financial and governmental, that must be solved before many of the Eastern states can fully adopt this new coöperative idea of library organization; but there are many states in the West that are not so handicapped. A system of coöperating libraries can be founded in a comparatively new district with but a very small outlay compared with the cost of the old order of separate and independent city libraries. The writer has just organized such a system in one of the native states of India and knows whereof he speaks. The state is as large as Massachusetts, there were 150 libraries already there, and the system now contains about 500 interdependent libraries, large and small,

but mostly small, for small working libraries filled with live books is the main idea of the organization. The library system of this native state is much larger than would be required by any county in this country, probably as large as most of our states would need, and yet the whole expense of its organization has not been as much as \$300,000 (outside of the cost of the central storehouse) and the annual maintenance charges are less than \$40,000.

The writer does not claim that a system of libraries as extensive as this one in the state of Baroda can be organized in any state in America for this amount of money. There is too much difference in the cost of living. But he does claim that for a sum well within the means of any county or state in this country a system of coöperating libraries can be organized that shall give to every inhabitant of that county or state the opportunity of reading every book or magazine he wants to read and of getting those books as easily and as quickly as he now gets his mail.

The writer would also advise that the organization of such a system begin in the county rather than in the state, provided that the county government can be empowered to lay taxes for that purpose. The state is a large body with many duties to perform, whereas the county government, in most of the northern states at least, is not looked upon as being greatly overworked. The county is large enough for a thorough exposition of the system, while it is not so large that any mistakes will be very expensive to rectify. When such an organization is in successful operation in one or two counties of a state, the state itself will soon swing into line, because it will be a line of accomplishment rather than one of experimentation.

The county system, however, should not be over-large; it will eventually be only a part of the larger system of the state and any over-growth will entail a needless expense to the taxpayers.

The writer would recommend that the county system be about as follows, though no two counties are likely to have

the same problems and so any general recommendations would be subject to numerous exceptions:

1. A storehouse for books seldom called for. This should be used for all the expensive, rare, special, technical and outclassed books in the entire county. Here should be found all the books not in active demand in any of the smaller libraries, but which are liable to be called for in any of them. It is the court of last resort, but as it has the resources of the whole county behind it the chances of its failing to meet a just demand are not large.

If this storehouse happens to be located in a city, and some centrally located city is the most convenient place for it, a general circulating library for the ordinary use of the citizens may be combined with it at a considerable saving in the expenses of administration and the original cost of the building.

The building to contain this collection should be designed from the standpoint of capacity rather than that of the ordinary operations of a public library; it is to hold books that do not move much and therefore accessibility must yield to compact storage. It need not be a large building to begin with, but it should be planned so as to allow for indefinite enlargement. Libraries have a trick of growing much faster and much larger than their designers expect, and a building that is so placed or so designed that it cannot be enlarged from time to time is a building that must eventually be scrapped and another one erected in its place.

There should be no attempt made to make this collection a large one at first. Large libraries are not made, they grow, and they grow along the lines of the demands made upon them. It is much easier to take care of those demands as they come up than to try to anticipate them. The central collection should begin with few books, but with as many dollars as may be possible. The calls for the first few years will occasion many purchases.

This building should also be the administrative headquarters of the entire

system. Here should be gathered all the trained classifiers and catalogers, and all the expert work on the books should be done here before they are sent out to the smaller libraries. No experts will be needed in any of these smaller institutions, and so no expert salaries will have to be paid in them.

The books in this central collection are to be freely loaned to every inhabitant of the county, but it would be better if they were not drawn directly by the reader, but through the instrumentality of his own local library. The local library would be more likely to be informed as to his responsibility, and could look after the book more closely.

2. Should the county be very large, or should it contain a number of good sized cities, subsidiary storehouses might be established in each of them and attached to the local library. In such a case many of the books and some of the expert work might be divided between the central and the other storehouses.

3. Small libraries or distributing centers should be established in every town and village of the county. They should vary in size from 500 books to 5,000, depending upon the local or the surrounding population. The larger collections might have a building, or a large public room, but the smaller ones could be located in some general store, or in the school house, and the store clerks or the teachers would be entirely competent to issue them to the readers and see to their safe return. A small salary would pay for the small amount of work that would be required. In many instances they might be kept in some private house, centrally located, particularly out among the farms, and in such cases the social prominence might be considered a sufficient remuneration.

The books in these libraries should be those that are in ordinary demand among the inhabitants of the district in which the library is situated. These books will vary as the population of the district happens to be industrial, commercial or agricultural. The books should be always up to date. When books are worn out or outgrown they should be returned

to the central storehouse, where they will be saved against a possible call, or disposed of, as the case may be. The small libraries should never harbor dead books.

4. As a supplement to these small libraries the writer would suggest that there be a number of special collections of books made up and enclosed in small boxes. These collections might be all new books, or they might all be upon one or two popular topics. They should travel from one library to another and would form an agreeable variation from the possible monotony of the smaller library collections. If they were upon special topics the records of their use would give the ordering departments much valuable information in a very practical way.

5. The foregoing plan would bring the opportunity of reading and study within at least a few miles of every man's door and that is as far, perhaps, as the ordinary county would be inclined to carry its extension of the library privilege. There is a step further, however, that does bring the library absolutely to his door, and that step is the institution of a series of book-wagons, real traveling libraries.

The average reading person in a city, with a public library within a walk of ten minutes, will read three times as many books when they are brought to his door than he will when he is obliged to the case of the farmer who is usually rushed with work during the hours when a library is open, and one has the strongest kind of an argument in favor of the book-wagon for the rural districts.

To sum up the advantages of this new system of library organization in a few words: It brings the books within the reach of the people who want to read them, it brings them only the books they want to read, the special reader has the entire resources of the county or the state at his command in obtaining for him the one book whose contents are important to him, it accomplishes all or any of these things at the least possible cost because the whole system is founded upon the principle of coöperation.

Some Library Reminiscences*

Dr R L Davis, librarian emeritus, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

While I have lived longer than any other person present, I have known the great pioneer librarians of the country, Jewett, Cogswell, and others, only as you, my juniors, have known them; that is, through what the history of American libraries has recorded of them. I have, however, known personally two later men of equal reputation who are to the most of you historical characters only, like the earlier men I have named. I will speak very briefly of these two.

Mr Justin Winsor was called to succeed Mr Jewett as superintendent of the Boston public library in 1868. He had been a student at Harvard for three years, had spent two years in Europe, and was at this time, 1868, engaged in literary work in Boston. My first meeting with Mr. Winsor was in his office in the old Bates hall, in the summer of 1870. I had a letter of introduction to him from President Angell, who represented me as an intending librarian desirous of learning how best to acquire a knowledge of library work. He was very kind, but his advice was comprised in a very few words—in three, indeed, which were, "By doing it." He told me that his preparation for his duties consisted in the reading of the volumes of the Parliamentary report on the British museum, 1836. My interview with him did not last long, as he was obliged to attend a meeting of his Board of trustees.

Something that happened several times in the short interval I was with him, and which was noticeable on other occasions, also, made such an impression on me that I never think of him, see his name in print, or hear him mentioned that I do not hear and see this thing happening. He wore rather heavy eyeglasses and there was for a guard a rather stout—for that use—chain. Every little while the glasses would drop from his nose and fall with a great deal of clatter into his lap.

In 1877, when Mr Sibley retired from

*Read before Ann Arbor library club.

the Harvard library, Mr Winsor was called to the position, which he held until his death in the fall of 1897.

When the American library association was organized at Philadelphia in 1876, he was chosen president, an office that he held for 10 years, when it was decided to make the length of the term one year, and Dr Poole succeeded him. When the University (Michigan) library building was dedicated in 1883 I was asked by President Angell to suggest an orator for the occasion. I suggested two names—that of Mr Winsor and that of Dr Poole. Mr Winsor was invited to come and accepted. His address was admirable. I do not believe I can suggest a more profitable piece of reading for librarians, and intending librarians, than it is. It may be found in the published Proceedings of that occasion. He came often to Ann Arbor again, and a few years later received from the university the degree of LL.D.

He achieved distinction as an author, especially in the field of American history. It is not as generally known that he was a Shakespearean scholar, and contributed his quota to the abounding Shakespeare literature. He was also a poet. I think, however, that poetry was only a by-product and a rare one with him after his entry upon library work.

Dr Winsor had passed that period of life at which Dr Osler is said to think chloroforming is desirable. His age was 66 when he died, but his strength was unabated.

It was much to have administered most successfully, for comparatively long periods, the then largest public library in the country, and also the largest university library, and to have accomplished so much literary work. In his intercourse with others he was kind and hospitable, but very impatient of shams.

Dr W. F. Poole, the other librarian about whom I wish to say a few words, began his library experience when a student at Yale. It began in that unique piece of work which made his name more widely known than that of any other librarian who has ever lived—*Poole's*

Index. In the preface to the revision of 1882 he gives an interesting account of the inception of the work. Dr Poole was connected for longer or shorter periods with the Athenaeum library at Boston, the Mercantile library in the same city, the Cincinnati public library, the Chicago public library, and, lastly, with the Newberry library of Chicago.

The Newberry building represents his ideas of library architecture, and its collection of books, his views of the relative importance of the different classes of literature.

From what I have heard from various sources of his administrative ability, I conclude that while of a high order, it was not as great as that possessed by Mr Winsor; but in his enthusiasm for the dissemination of bibliographical knowledge, none in the profession surpassed him. In a letter received from him in 1886 he said that only a few days before he had occasion to speak to his son, a recent graduate of Yale, about Lowndes's Manual. The son had never heard of that work. He then questioned him about other famous bibliographical works, and to his "disgust, amazement, and indignation," he knew nothing about any of them. Dr Poole added, "I hope this is not true of Michigan students."

He had very decided views in regard to library construction which he proclaimed whenever the subject was under discussion—views that he was able to express to some extent in the Newberry building at Chicago. Some of you may remember the almost acrimonious correspondence in the Boston papers and others, in which the architecture of the new public library building of Boston was assailed. Dr Poole was foremost in this. The years since have justified some of his criticisms.

He was first, as far as I know, to give something like an adequate reason for the outrageous trimming of books by binders. The waste paper gained in this way, he said, helped to pay, or paid, or more than paid their rent.

I might mention other conclusions reached and announced by him—conclusions possibly reached by others, but

never announced by them. He was most fearless and outspoken in the expression of his opinions, but he was never, I think, intentionally offensive.

There was a character that he called a *Miss Nancy*. Among other things that made up this character was a tendency to handle things with gloves. He had no patience with a *Miss Nancy*.

Despite his great frankness which might sometimes rub the wrong way, he was generally admired and respected and was loved devotedly by those who knew him best. Mr W. I. Fletcher, his collaborator on the *Index*, said of him at the time of his death:

"To have known him well, to have felt the sweetness of his loving disposition was a blessing for a lifetime. How much those of us who grew up under his guidance and thoughtful oversight owe to him we shall probably never know; but we do know that the world seems empty with him no longer here."

Like Mr Winsor, Dr Poole was a student of American history and contributed somewhat to its literature, but not to the extent that Mr Winsor did. He was a pamphleteer. I do not now recall any volume on this subject, of which he was the author.

Fairy Gold

It is generally conceded by those engaged in library service that such workers are rarely adequately paid in the coin of our realm. This, alas, is too true, and yet does there not come to most of us a certain compensation, fluctuating, to be sure, but yet measurable only in the terms of "fairy gold"?

I purposely do not include in this category the unspeakable satisfaction that comes to those who love books, of working with them. That is our birthright as librarians and if we do not know it, we have missed our vocation. But if there were not some additional recompense, would there be so many patient women spending long hours in confined service for avowedly poor pay? I say women advisedly, for though there undoubtedly be men who know the sweet satisfaction of treasuring this subtle payment, still in

the nature of the case their number must be less and their opportunities fewer. One does not imagine the well-salaried head of an important city library experiencing as frequent payments of this nature as do his less-moneyed assistants. Nor do all assistants share in it alike. Perhaps the cataloger who sits all day at her desk interprets in terms of her own, the satisfaction she feels in the consciousness of work well done; certainly, as I know from experience, the reference librarian obtains largess of this fairy gold in the knowledge that she has by so many questions answered, helped the world to be happier that day. The children's librarian receives the greater part of her salary in this intangible compensation, but for real library perquisites, I commend you to the position of librarian in a friendly small town.

If she thoroughly does her duty, great shall be her reward in this currency of another region! At the end of five years, if her head is not visibly swollen by the huge over-payments of fairy gold pressed upon her, it will be wholly due to the fact that she possesses a saving sense of humor. After all, one gets used to the familiar "You always know everything I want, so will you tell me this?" or, "Mamma wants you and nobody else to choose her book!" But is it not a choice and shining gold-piece when a daily and very cranky visitor to the library grudgingly remarks in a rare moment of appreciation: "I like to come here. There's a pleasant feeling about this place and you folks always act as if you liked each other and liked to work together. Over at the _____ library they're always finding fault with one another."

Like to work together? Why, we do! And it isn't because everything always goes smoothly. Hard problems and difficult situations that might call for the application of an oil-can are neither unknown nor infrequent. But we have discovered that in order to ensure a steady income of fairy gold, it is advisable, nay, necessary, to provide an unfailing store in small currency for distribution over our own loan counter. And this library

supply, like most of the world's best wealth, is coined in purest form only when the machinery is running without friction. The secret of seeming harmonious is really to be so! In itself this exercises a subtle alchemy upon our work, turning hard tasks done together into the best of fun. It is easier to be pleasant than otherwise—even to the town crank—when we know that a smile expended upon the general public will prove indeed a bit of bread upon the water.

Fairy gold comes also to this favored librarian in other forms than pleasant words and personal popularity. It takes the shape of flowers, many flowers, sometimes in such quantities that she longs to share them with less fortunate libraries situated in city slums. A tall jar of gladioli, like poised pink butterflies; sweet peas, "a-tip-toe for a flight"; a copper pot full of royal purple asters—any one of these would be a glory for the children of "Little Italy" and this especial library has always more than its share of blossoms. It is blessed not only with garden blooms, but wild ones in their season. Arbutus, cowslips, cardinal flower, fringed gentian, witch hazel, as well as shy and unassuming orchids, are part of its royal perquisites. The flowers come by many hands, sometimes in a luxurious motor car, sometimes in a rickety old farm wagon, by deaf and ancient ladies, who can be thanked only by smiles, by little children whose tiny fingers find short stems more comfortable to hold. Fortunately the janitor, while contemplating with masculine scorn the "mess" flowers make, patiently tolerates them as idiosyncracies of the staff, whom he privately considers a trifle "touched."

Dare I confess that library perquisites may go still further—admit that lower desk drawers sometimes harbor apples and pears instead of record books and letter-files? Let us boldly acknowledge it! After all, what is fruit but a flower a stage farther in development? Still, there is a corporeal difference. Flowers fade gracefully, but when there are so many pears that one can't keep pace with

their ripening proclivities, after a hot Sunday, one may be encountered on Monday morning by a sternly suspicious scrub-woman who "smells a smell about that there desk!"

Beyond flowers and perishable fruit lies a debatable land. Flower seeds from other garden-lovers, plants for the reading-room pass with approval. Ice-cream suddenly presented on a scorching July day, may, I maintain, be accepted with thanks, provided that the demands of the public permit one to retire into privacy to consume it. Nor can a little loaf of hot gingerbread be refused, especially since the careworn woman who brings it is the wife of the bed-ridden carpenter for whom, for many a long month, you have been choosing books to lighten his imprisonment.

Then there is the case of the Methodist minister, a boyish and jolly individual with an inveterate sweet tooth which formerly demanded soothing sustenance in the reading-room. Since the children—who may not eat candy nor chew gum—considered this breach of library etiquette with grave eyes and expectant looks, the occasion demanded courageous action. The Methodist minister is not my pastor, so far be it from me to criticize the manner in which he now tarries in the vestibule until he catches my eye, when he ostentatiously eats marshmallows, to the detriment of both his dignity and my own. Nor do I find it difficult to guess what freakish unseen hand has tucked that chocolate peppermint under a pile of borrowers' cards on the loan desk, or disposed a blatant gum-drop on the typewriter keys. Yet no doubt that man has preached a sometime sermon from the text, "Lead us not into temptation!" For fugitive bits of candy I care nothing, but the contrast of his whimsical mischievousness with the real and sorrowful burdens that I know he constantly bears, is as so much fairy gold in my lockers.

But, on the whole, to my recommendation of a library in a small town let me add the stipulation that the town shall be the home of a boys' school. Five or six hundred lads may add much to

the gaiety of the community and not a little to the fairy gold stored away by the librarian. Very pleasant is the tribute paid by the printed postcards sent by debate leaders to the members of their team. "To Mr Blank," it reads. "You are assigned to the affirmative side of the question, 'Shall women be allowed to vote?' Date, Nov. 15." So much is a printed form, but at the bottom the leader has scribbled: "Go to the public library; they'll help you." This addendum becomes a true addition to one's private treasury when presented by an engaging youth who remarks with cheerful frankness: "They've given me the affirmative! Gee, isn't that the limit? Will you help me out?"

One day some thirty big boys filled the reading-room with sounds of pencils agonizing over prize essays. I had settled down for a period of calm after a wild storm of eager questions and appeals concerning fifteen different subjects, from the Panama canal and the recall of judges to the private life of Mark Twain; earnest queries from nice boys whom it is a pleasure to help. Into this atmosphere of furious and concentrated study came with its mother a small and enchanting bit of babyhood, white and woolly from top to toe, with soft pink cheeks and a radiant smile for a world that it found most friendly. On leaving the library it turned at the door to wave two fuzzy mittens comprehensively at the boys, remarking very sweetly and audibly, "Good-bye!" Amid the wave of amusement that swept the reading room, a charming revelation of wholesome human nature appeared to one observant pair of eyes. From her high chair the librarian took note that every one of those big boys paused to smile at the small white atom, and that several waved it a cordial salute.

Oh, the librarian of a little town may see much from her point of vantage, much that perhaps passes unnoticed in a larger library because there the personal touch must necessarily be less. One cannot know the borrowers in a big city as one knows them in a community of seven thousand people, a community

that is noted for its liberality and sweet spirit of friendliness. Faith in the ultimate good, belief that the fundamental forces of the world work together for righteousness must come to one who looks upon human nature from such a library desk. The "holy terrors" of a few years ago have grown into gentlemanly and self-respecting lads; in another few years our present thorns in the flesh will no longer be imps incarnate but desirable members of society. Tragedy and comedy alike visit our reading room, and many a little drama is played before eyes that have learned to see. And is not this insight into the lives and motives of other people, quiet, courageous souls that sometimes inhabit very common clay, perhaps the most precious installment of fairy gold that can come to a librarian?

The Battle of the Books

I am fresh from an experience pleasantly confirming one's faith in the classics. Out of a class of sophomores, about 40 in number, nearly half, making choice from a dozen titles, chose for one book, *John Inglesant*. It is true that the choice in itself is not significant; for there were no best sellers offered as options and special emphasis was put upon *John Inglesant*. Moreover it must be admitted that a number found the romance tedious, one intolerably so; all admitted that it made hard reading. On the other hand one lad who made fearful work of *Woodstock* came through *Inglesant* with comprehension and enjoyment. A number said they would not choose such a book for pastime, yet found that concentration made it intensely interesting. Two raised the question why *Shorthouse* was not as generally known as say *Churchill*, declaring that his tale was entrancing, and wanted to be directed to other of the author's books. One must allow a little discount for a desire to say to the instructor the expected thing; but the conferences were invariably frank and informal, so that there remains a certainty of very considerable enjoyment of a classic so severe as *John Inglesant*.

and that too on the part of students who have not been great readers and whose reading has largely been current light fiction.

I am moved to bring this experience to the knowledge of the public as I have felt for some weeks that the time must be at hand for one of the periodical onslaughts, imitative of Voltaire's mood toward Dante, upon the old masters in literature. Moreover this evidence is re-enforced by our usual experience. It is with us a part of the English course to make oral reports in private upon half a dozen books a year; books of the day are often allowed, in fact in many cases no restriction is made at all, except to rule out individually now and then a choice of mere froth. Yet we find every year that the percentage of classics is greater than of the merely popular, that Dickens, Thackeray, Eliot, Austen, and Scott always appear, oftentimes Mrs. Gaskell, Charlotte Bronte, and Kingsley.

Of course no one contends, I suppose, that one gets the same kind of enjoyment or an equal degree of excitement from the *Newcomes* and from *The prisoner of Zenda*. But it is inconceivable to me that any mind worth the name is not at times open enough to be enriched by *Henry Esmond*; in other moods other books, but let not our best moments be starved for want of the right food. Of course our nominally successful war upon illiteracy has not yet broken up the mental inertia of ages. There is many a reader to-day whose grandparents read not at all and whose minds have not yet grown much beyond the juvenile stage. It is true to be sure that the difference is not between adult and juvenile; for there are classic juveniles. Yet it is not far from the truth to say that the mind is rather childish which can never take stronger meat than Mrs. Barclay, or Harold Wright. When therefore one who in his name carries the tradition of centuries of New England learning overthrows the classics with short shrift, one can't help the suspicion that he resorts to these antics in order to startle his readers into thought. But the aim of this communication is not to find reasons

but simply to cite experience that classics have life.

Of course reprints are not necessarily convincing; those in gold and morocco make cheap ornaments. But surely no one buys Everyman's Library for ornament. Such reprints are convincing evidence that there is a sure public, a constant demand for Dickens and Scott and Homer and Cooper. Every age moreover has had its detractors of the classic; at least I suspect that the preacher who complained because of the making of over-many books meant to imply a mild reproof for the parishioner who did not find sufficient satisfaction in the Tragedy of Job and the Idyll of Ruth. Yet it must be admitted that not only is the classic not suited to our every mood, to some minds some classics seem never suited. Humbly the writer, yes, rather shamefacedly, confesses that there are some he has never been able to read and that others need the stimulus to be had in reading aloud, contact with another mind. When mind and book fail to agree there are two chances as to where the fault lies. Those who exult in an ignorant superiority to the Iliad or in finding the Vicar vacuous, perhaps are only making the mistake of advertizing their own emptiness. Surely one should not openly rejoice in the lack of taste and sense. Perhaps the modesty of a prayer, not the pharisee's, might in the infinity of time, lift such a defective to the plane of Victorian, if not Periclean, appreciation. To be a classic is simply to have stood the test of time, measured of course in enduring opinion; the individual whim that chortles over an unreadable *Vicar* is unthinkable as a standard of general choice.

Silence is the only answer necessary to such whim; time gives the final answer. Yet even the sanest have felt apprehension at the vociferous rejection of the sifted food of the ages. The impressionable Ruskin, in the early seventies lamented that the good of Sir Walter was for that age non-efficacious, for nobody read him; he was brought up short by a correspondent who showed that in the very year of Ruskin's complaint, 250,-

000 copies of Waverly had been sold in the United Kingdom, his correspondent being no less a person than Dr John Brown, though Dr Brown felt obliged to admit that Miss Edgeworth no longer had a reader. Doubtless Dr Brown was himself in error; at least to-day, forty years later Miss Edgeworth has for some of her books many publishers; some that long were neglected have again seen the light.

One final bit of evidence, evidence of the perennial attractiveness of the classic, evidence too that children need librarian or parent to put the classics in their way. A girl of ten, asking to be read to, listened intently to *The Abbot*; on its completion demanded another; when *Quentin Durward* was finished, still clamored for more; the consent to continue the reading was reluctantly given, for the reader was a busy person; but in six months there had been read also *Marmion* and *The lay of the last minstrel*, *Woodstock* and *Domby and Son*. Honesty compels the admission that the reading of the last went hard.

NO NAME.

A Little Tin Station

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The part of town where the station is situated is a new addition, about two miles from the main library. A part of it, which lies across a slough, was formerly called "Dundee," and in this there lived what were called "Slough-rangers," making it on a small scale almost like a slum district. While there are only a few of these people left, the place has extended until there are about 500 people living in this community, and these, for the most part very thrifty, owning their own homes, or buying and building on the installment plan. There are several large factories in the vicinity, which has brought a great many of the people there, a number of which are of Bohemian nationality.

As we found that the people living here were neither using the library, nor knew much about it, we thought it time books were being taken to them.

We obtained permission last summer

to use the little mission chapel there for a library station, where we gave out books once a week, and held a story hour for the children. While we felt that the people responded very well, yet there always seems to be a feeling about a church, that unless one is a member of that particular church he does not feel free to go there. Then we began to look around for another location, and the only place was in a little grocery store, where there was not sufficient room. The owner of the store, who is a thrifty Bohemian, became very much interested and was anxious to help us get some place. He owns a vacant lot back of his store, on which he had given the city permission to erect a portable red zinc, steel or tin (whichever they are) voting booth. He said he would be willing to give us the use of the ground if the city would let us use the building permanently for our station, and he would do the janitor work for a very nominal fee. We immediately got into communication with a member of the city council, who became very much interested in the proposition and granted us the use of the building, and we took possession the day after election.

Being of tin, it is needless to say that the building is fireproof and is 12 by 21 feet in size. It is large enough to have one long office table, a dozen chairs, a couple wood boxes and book shelves all along one side. There are windows on one side only, which give us plenty of light and we have electricity if we need more.

We have a large library sign suspended on the outside giving the time of opening which is one afternoon a week from four until six o'clock. For those two hours the college girl who assists me and I are kept constantly on the move charging and discharging books, selecting a good book for father, a Western story for big brother, a detective story for uncle, and good love stories for mother and sister. Oh! to be able to write a detective story or a Western story every time one is asked for, my fortune would be made. Most of the patrons so far are children, who take the books home for their

parents, although the adults are beginning to come now, too, mostly women, however, though a man and his dog strays in now and then.

To add to the excitement, we have a lovely wood fire to keep up, which either gets so hot that the children nearly burn up, or dies down until we nearly freeze to death. Every week we rescue from six to a dozen children from burning their clothes off, for in their eagerness to get a book they forget about the stove, get too near, and the consequence is a smell of something scorched. We then find clothes singed to a nice brown. Such, the joys of a wood stove!

Our first day in our new home was a thriller. It took all the self-control we could muster up to keep from going straight up through the roof. The youngsters took occasion to welcome us by bombarding us with stones, and you can imagine the sensation one would receive sitting on the inside. Talk about German bombardments! I can't believe they could be much worse. However, we came out of that siege all right and only occasionally young America breaks forth again.

They are eager now for the story hour which we have every week, when we have between 40 and 50 children, ranging in ages from four to sixty-five. Not having a very spacious place, and to get them in, we have children in the wood boxes, children stacked all over the table, children two and three deep on each chair, and then some standing. Some with faces so dirty you wonder if they ever saw soap and water, but they enjoy the stories just the same.

We have such an excellent plan for getting story tellers that we do not have to draw on the resources of the library. At Coe college here, in the public speaking department, there is a class in story telling, and as we furnish most of the books for their stories, I suggested to the head of the department that she give the girls real practice work in telling stories to children and allow them credit for the work. This she was very glad to do. Two girls come every week, and it is most satisfactory. There is always

great excitement until the "story ladies" arrive.

We have about 300 books with an average circulation of something over a hundred each week, so we feel very much encouraged. Anyway, I am enjoying the experience immensely, and I hope if the wind does pick us up it will drop us again in as interesting a community as this one.

FANNIE WOLFE.

Bases of Computation

New York, March 28, 1917.

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the March number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES are printed "some recent figures" which are said to have been "compiled at the Public library of Washington, D. C.," giving "the cost of circulation of books in ten cities." The wording of the item would, I think, indicate that the figures given represent the cost per volume of circulation in the libraries mentioned. As a matter of fact, they represent the expenditure per capita; and even so, that for Philadelphia is not printed as given in Mr Bowerman's annual report. The expenditure per capita for Philadelphia, according to his table, was 17 cents.

While the figures printed in Mr Bowerman's table seem to be sufficiently accurate, do you not think there is entirely too much careless compilation of library statistics, designed for local consumption, and intended to serve particular local needs? A librarian wants to show how economically he runs his library, so he prepares a table of statistics, and selects the elements for his computation so that they may serve his purpose.

An example of this is printed in the Report of the Cleveland public library for the year 1915. The president of the board, in his portion of the report, estimates the per capita circulation of the public libraries of Boston, Chicago, New York and Cleveland. For the New York public library he puts down not only the number of volumes in our circulation department, but includes in his table about a million volumes in our reference department, not one of which is ever

allowed to go out of the building. The fact that the New York public library consists of two wholly different libraries under one general administration, is entirely ignored. It is just as absurd and unfair to include the volumes in our large reference department in such computations as it would be to include the number of volumes in the Library of Congress with those in the Public library of the District of Columbia. If Congress should place those two libraries in Washington under one general administration, the makers of comparative tables of library statistics for local consumption would be able to make a bad showing for the Public library of the District of Columbia. In the text of Mr Bowerman's report, and in the footnote to his statistical table he brings in the annual cost of our reference library, but it does not seem to have occurred to him to add the annual expenditures of the Library of Congress to those of his own library, though they are both maintained by the United States Government.

E. H. ANDERSON, Director.
New York public library.

Personal Reading of the Librarian

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I had rather an interesting experience at a recent library meeting attended by library workers from two states. While we were enjoying a banquet, provided by our courteous hosts, I passed around a little book asking librarians to write their own name and address and the name of a book that had interested them recently. I am thinking that perhaps other librarians will be interested in seeing this list, so I am sending it to you, asking a place for it in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

MABEL F. BLAKESLEE.

Ruggles of Red Gap.
Field, forest and stream—Fred Barde.
Life and letters of John Hay—Thayer.
Crescent moon.
From alien to citizen.
Life of a bee.
Harbor—Poole.
Divine fire—Sinclair.
Real adventure.
Ultimate belief—A. C. Brock.
Alaska days with John Muir.
Collected poems of Rupert Brooks.

"Calm yourself."
Joyful heart—Schauffler.
My lady of the Chinese courtyard—Cooper.
What men live by—Cabot.
Democracy—A. Carnegie.
Taxation of land values—Post.
My boyhood and youth—John Muir.
Life of William R. Nelson, by staff of the *K. C. Star*.
Wider use of the school plant—Perry.
Les Miserables.
Book clinic—Samuel Crothers.
Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson.
Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini.
Country of the ring and the book.
Miscellaneous writings of Mary Baker Eddy.
Boy problems in the home—Forbush.
Essay on literature—Lectures given by Lafcadio Hearn to Japanese students and collected from their notes.
My year of the great war—Palmer.
Peg along—Walton.
Way of all flesh—Butler.
And then came Jean—Mason.
Dark forest—Walpole.

Information for Headquarters

The A. L. A. Headquarters has sent out a "Form for library statistics" adapted, it is believed, to the needs of both public and institutional libraries and librarians are requested to fill it out to the best of their ability and return it to the secretary of the A. L. A. not later than May 1. It is not expected that any one librarian will answer all the questions which the form contains.

For Distribution

The New York state library has issued title pages for the following completed volumes of bulletins:

Bibliography Bulletins 51-60, v. 5.

Library School Bulletins 31-40, v. 4.

A limited number was printed and no general distribution will be made. Requests to the New York state library from institutions desiring them, will be granted as long as the supply lasts.

The local committees of Louisville, Geo. T. Settle, chairman, are busy on plans for the success and comfort of the A. L. A. meeting.

A handbook of Louisville will be mailed upon receipt of 2c postage, as long as the edition lasts.

Bibliographical Research in the Americas

An interesting correspondence has been taking place between the International High Commission, U. S. section, and the Librarian of Congress, in which the Honorable L. S. Rowe, secretary-general, calls attention to the great need that is felt by those engaged in scientific and historical research because of the few sources of bibliographical information, relating to Latin-America. He tells also of the protracted effort made by learned bodies in South America to establish a bibliographical review which should contain data of the major works and serial publications emanating from any American country, but adds there is no likelihood at present of anything being done along this line.

Dr Rowe calls attention to the fact that the *Revista de Bibliografia Chilena y Extranjera*, published under the direction of the National library of Chile in co-operation with the National university, would go a long way toward supplying the want of adequate bibliographical information. This review contains a most detailed bibliography of Chilean publications, a general American bibliography—North, South and Central—a general European bibliography, necessarily much restricted, and a supplement of general Chilean bibliography.

Dr Rowe thinks if a number of subscriptions from learned institutions and libraries to this review could be secured, it is probable that the latter would find itself in a position to enlarge considerably its sections on the other countries of South America. This is what is principally lacking at this time. By an exchange of publications, it is possible to make the North American bibliography more familiar to South and Central American scholars, but unless something is done to strengthen some practical and already existing publication, such as this Chilean review, the lack of knowledge of Latin-American bibliography in North America will continue to be handicapped.

Dr Rowe suggests that measures be devised for more extensive use and cir-

ulation of this review in the United States, asking the assistance of the Library of Congress both in furnishing material and in distributing knowledge of the work in Pan American research. If a large number of universities and municipal librarians should subscribe to the Chilean review and besides furnish it with material, it would greatly assist in solving the problem.

Dr Putnam, Librarian of Congress, in answer, assured Dr Rowe of the assistance of the Library of Congress not only in subscription and publicity, but by responding to any requests of the editor for bibliographical material. Dr Putnam will be glad to receive assurances of sympathy and co-operation in the project from learned societies, librarians and those interested throughout the country.

Work of Classification Committee

The D. C. advisory committee of the A. L. A. has sent out a circular to its members asking what numbers shall be assigned to those important subjects which require numbers. The subjects under discussion are:

1. Photoplays (Moving pictures).
2. Vocational guidance.
3. Scientific management.
4. Preparedness.
5. Cities and towns—Planning.
6. Agricultural credit.
7. Resources, Natural.
8. Boy scouts.
9. Child welfare.
10. Social surveys.
11. Moving picture drama.
12. Color photography.
13. Negro (general no.).
14. Utilities, public.
15. Government ownership of public utilities.
16. X-rays.
17. Industrial efficiency.
18. Radioactivity.
19. Salesmanship.
20. New thought.
21. Camp-fire girls.
22. Social centers.
23. Public service corporations.
24. Mothers' pensions.
25. Pageants.
26. Motorcycles.
27. Employers' liability.
28. Social psychology.
29. Social settlements.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau		Publishers	
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year	
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year	
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents	
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year	

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Change in the Booklist—Notice is given in the May number of the *A. L. A. Booklist* that a proposal to reprint its contents by *The Dial* of Chicago, is under consideration. This will give its contents a much wider distribution than is possessed at present and may also be considered a mark of distinction, since it means recognition by the leading critical review of the country. Those interested in the *Booklist* have reason to be proud of the compliment. If the proposal is accepted, the size and makeup of the *Booklist* will be changed to conform to those of *The Dial*. The idea of distribution is a good one but there will be some who will regret the loss of "pocket size."

The A. L. A. meeting—In May, most of the decisions relating to the annual meeting of A. L. A. will be made. There may be the best attendance in the record, one hopes there will be, and again, national conditions may militate against it. But there are two things which must

not be forgotten—the incomparable reputation for hospitality which belongs justly to Louisville with its dozen good libraries of every kind. And second, it must be borne in mind that it *often* happens to be downright *cold* in that region at that season of the year. It may be warm; it will not be hot. Further than this, matters are in the hands of the Executive board which speaks for itself.

Let all who can, plan to attend the meeting at Louisville determined to get something out of it and satisfaction will attend their efforts.

A belated new building—According to the daily press, the obstacles, mostly legal, in the way of the carrying out of the plans for a new building for the Philadelphia free library, have been removed at last and the contractors are promising to push forward the completion of the building with the greatest possible rapidity.

It has been a number of years since the project of a new building was first brought up by the late Dr John Thomson and its development has been mostly marked by obstructions of various kinds which same have not been calculated to enthuse either the library administration or the public in the work of either providing or using the opportunity always afforded by new conditions, to make the library service a more vital force in the education of the community. In the interim, the main library has been crowded into small, inconvenient quarters, inadequate for the work which the library was set to do.

The best wishes and heartiest interest of the other library centers will be with the Philadelphia free library in the new prospect for better conditions within and without the library, that opens with the new building.

A proper action—The resignation of Miss Grace Ingersoll of the Public library of Corning, N. Y., has been announced.

The reason given in the local papers for her resignation, was that notwithstanding the salary offered, \$55 a month to continue in her present capacity, Miss Ingersoll stated she could not see her way clear to do so unless an assistant was provided. The library is opened six hours a day from one to five and from seven to nine.

Without knowing anything of Miss Ingersoll personally, or of her work, PUBLIC LIBRARIES is inclined to congratulate this librarian on the wisdom which moves her to refuse to be tied to any institution with no one to share either its responsibilities, its duties or its pleasures. It is most evident that the library of the town is qualified as a piece of bric-a-brac, rather than as an institution calculated to be an educational force in a city of several thousand inhabitants, a large number of whom are engaged in business, manufacture and other activities, where definite, up-to-date information is needed every day in their work.

Working up interest—The Public library of Jacksonville, Ill., is in the first rank of those libraries which are doing special work for the medical people of the community.

The Morgan County medical society has long had its own library stored in the Jacksonville public library, has had a special librarian and it contributes in many ways to the up-building of the interest in catalogs, classification and library service generally touching medical literature.

The library keeps in close touch with the medical interests in the community.

A late form of endeavor is a contest (See page 193) which doubtless is backed by the medical society. The contest is open to anyone, though special interest on the part of librarians in Illinois is looked for. The thought back of it is to interest more people in the public library and in the circulars which the library is sending out, attention is called to the assistance that newspapers can be in such a case. It mentions, also, that there are over 25 physicians and surgeons listed in the Dickens' dictionary, Balzac's Country doctor, Mitchell's Autobiography of a quack and the lovable doctor who lived Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush, as material for critical notes in regard to the contest.

The result will be given in PUBLIC LIBRARIES when the contest closes.

International Day—May 18

An urgent request from Mrs Fanny Fern Andrews, chairman of the International section of the N. E. A., to the children's librarians over the country to join with the schools in devoting attention on International day, May 18, to a consideration of what may form a part of the movement in the children's rooms of the public libraries in the country.

In answer to this appeal a letter was sent to the children's department of about 30 of the leading libraries in the country. The letter stated:

Would it be possible to prepare in your children's department an observance of May 18, as International day? In view of the horrible conditions which grow out of war, does it not seem desirable and indeed advisable, that the children should be kept, as far as possible, from imbibing the spirit which war engenders? We have only just begun to recover from the terrible scars of the Civil war and in this country where the children of all nationalities and races must dwell together in unity, if the Republic is to survive, something must be done to make them see that it is not the sinner, but the sin, which we are striving to eliminate.

The majority of those addressed did not answer. It is impossible to tell from this, their attitude toward the subject of the letter since it is generally conceded that one of the hardest things to do in library work is to write a letter that will bring an answer from those who are supposed to be interested. It cannot be concluded that librarians are wrongly minded in regard to this, even if there are those who feel that war is a glorious or necessary thing, since the cultivation of the spirit of friendliness is the first requisite for any one who attempts to do public library work.

Answers were received from only 13 libraries and were interesting as a side light on the writers of them. To quote a few of them:

We plan to observe National day in every way within our power. W. D. JOHNSTON.

In view of the present national situation, I do not feel that I can co-operate in the observance of May 18. H. S. HIRSHBERG.

I like the suggestion in regard to the idea of International day. I hope we may be able to observe it. EFFIE L. POWER.

Those who are in any way connected with children, must work against the bitter spirit which has already made its appearance among them. We are trying to do this in our story hour, in the different parts of the city. Children's librarians can well observe International day by use of pictures, story hours and exhibits. I hope librarians will assist the movement on foot to foster the writing of juvenile books which do not glorify war.

ALICE M. JORDAN.

We shall make an exhibit on May 18 which emphasizes heroes of action, such as exploration and science. E. R. PERRY.

I wish we could have some sort of a day to help impress a sense of personal responsibility on children. The importance of inculcating a sense of justice is also great, but these qualities are the type which must be encouraged at home rather than at a library, I think. CHALMERS HADLEY.

It does not seem the proper time for any marked observation just now. Any talk of peace seems nothing short of unpatriotic.

FRANCES E. EARHART.

If the public schools celebrate May 18, we shall gladly co-operate to the best of our ability. CARL H. MILAM.

Word was received from a number of cities like Cincinnati, Milwaukee, St. Louis and Philadelphia, approving the idea but finding conditions, at the time of writing, too involved to be able to decide on action.

There seems to be a misunderstanding about the request which went out from Mrs Fannie Fern Andrews of Boston, as to the celebration of a day in the children's room. The request was not for a *Peace* day, but for an *International* day.

Since the horrible tragedy of a war is upon us, there may be some excuse for not making a formal observance of the day, but surely principles of the founders of a nation would approve the emphasis of the principle of nationalism of the right sort, even though one speaks in war terms.

An eagerness to work together for the good of humanity as a whole, rather than for the selfish advancement of one individual nation, animates the new spirit of internationalism. It is a higher form of patriotism, an outgrowth of the older patriotism, expressed in a desire for the agreement of the peoples.

All forms of international societies must be encouraged—men must be taught to think internationally. Conflicting points of view must be thoroughly considered and reconciled; misunderstandings explained and removed, and then gradually will be built up a world-wide unanimity of public opinion with common conceptions of rights and obligations.

True Riches

A most pathetic item of news is sent in by Miss Clara Shuler, librarian of the Public Library at Miamisburg, Ohio.

There had lived in the town for a good many years, a quiet, humble little woman, Mrs Sarah A. Brown, who maintained herself by doing washing and domestic service. In her little house across the street from the public library she became attached to the latter as she saw the eager crowd of children visiting the place week after week, though she never visited it herself. But when she came to die, she told those about her that she wanted the hundred dollars which she had in the bank, the savings of her life time, to go to the library to help her fellow citizens who, richer than she was in knowing how to read and write, were still too poor to buy books.

Miamisburg is the home of a large number of citizens who, as this world's judgment goes, are counted wealthy and yet not one of them has given anything to

the public library or shown in any way an interest in the institution. Doubtless, they have often felt that their place in the world was much more important than that of the poor old woman doing menial service. Yet the riches that were in her heart count far more in the fiber of character than the pounds of gold which the others might produce as their claim to reputation.

A Library Contest

The following notice is sent out by the Public library, Jacksonville, Ill., open to all comers and specially urged on Illinois contestants for the honor of the state:

**TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00)
TO BE GIVEN FOR THE BEST
LIST OF DOCTORS AND
SURGEONS IN FICTION.**

Conditions of Contest.

Make a list of the stories in which doctors appear as characters. Arrange the list alphabetically by author of books.

Write a brief note about each doctor who appears in a book. These notes are not to exceed 100 words each. Put the note or notes, if there is more than one doctor in a book, under the author and title entry for each book in the list. The value of these notes as well as the length of the list will be considered in making decision as to prize.

Your public library is a good place to get material.

Send manuscripts to the Jacksonville public library, Jacksonville, Ill. The names and addresses of persons submitting manuscripts must be in a separate sealed envelope and not on the list. This envelope containing name and address must be attached to the manuscript.

Manuscripts must be in by September 1, 1917.

Anderson Hoyt Hopkins

In a review of the late lamented A. H. Hopkins, written for the *Michigan Alumnus* by Wm. W. Bishop who perhaps of all his professional associates knew Mr Hopkins best, the following fitting tribute closes the article:

Mr Hopkins was a big man physically and mentally. He was tall and broad and strong. His was no-mild and easy-going nature. Rather was he aggressive, vigorous, active, yet there was a patience, a kindliness, a forbearance, and a genuine humor which his friends and associates knew well. Moreover, he saw things in a large way. His knowledge of books and of men was extensive. His views on library problems were his own, and his vision was far wider than the average. Above all, he was friendly. In the American library association, in the Chicago library club, in the Pittsburgh and Louisville libraries he is sincerely mourned by his former associates. And to a little group of those who knew him best, he remains the tried and trusted friend and counsellor, the kindly critic, the far-seeing director of library activities. His retirement from active work under stress of disease was a distinct loss to library progress in America. His death seals the hope that he would yet return to us—a hope that a few months since seemed likely to be fulfilled. Had he been spared in full strength to direct the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, he would have left one of the great names in the history of American libraries. But wanting that, we treasure his memory for what he did, and more for what he was.

The Lemperly Book-Plate Collection

A notable collection of book-plates was given to Western Reserve university in February by Mr and Mrs Paul Lemperly of Cleveland, in memory of their daughter Lucia, a student in the College for Women, who died in 1915. The collection consists of about 540 book-plates and other engravings by Edwin Davis French, the foremost American designer and engraver of book-plates. It has been placed in the custody of the Adelbert College library, which is the central library of the university, and for the present will be kept and exhibited in the English library at the College for Women, where attractive accommodations have been provided for it.

With this collection Mr and Mrs Lem-

perly gave several of the standard works on book-plates, the catalogs of Mr French's book-plates as exhibited by the Grolier club in New York and the Rowfant club in Cleveland, and the volume published as a memorial to Mr French which includes a check-list of his engravings. Of the 299 book-plates recorded in this check-list, the Lemperly collection contains examples of all but six, besides half a dozen that are not included in the list. A great many of these are represented by two or more impressions from different states of the same plate, the variations thus shown often being highly interesting to a careful observer. Numerous trial proofs and print proofs, signed by the artist, were given by Mr French to his friend Mr Lemperly, many of which bear presentation inscriptions. All the plates are mounted and labelled with great care.

Edwin Davis French was born in North Attleboro, Mass., a town of goldsmiths, silversmiths, and engravers, in 1851. He was early recognized as a master of the engraving art. Most of his work was devoted to book-plates, all of which were engraved on copper. From 1897 till his death in 1906, he lived at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, the scenery of which sometimes appears in his book-plates.

His book-plates are characterized by dignity and richness of design, fine proportion, bold and certain line, depth and fineness of shading, grace in design of flower and foliage, exquisite lettering, and aptness in rendering personal or local qualities suggested by his subject. No other American designer has produced book-plates so much sought for by collectors, and his work stands with that of the most distinguished English and Continental engravers.

An important and valuable addition to the French collection given by them in January was made by Mr and Mrs Lemperly in February. The new gift comprises 82 finely mounted book-plates used by celebrated men and women.

Some of the book-plates were designed by well-known artists, among whom E. A. Abbey, Walter Crane, and Kate

Greenaway are represented. The collection includes the book-plate of Edward Fitzgerald drawn by Thackeray, that of Rudyard Kipling designed by his father, J. Lockwood Kipling, and Ellen Terry's book-plate designed by her son, Gordon Craig.

Of literary celebrities whose book-plates are found in the collection may be mentioned: Horace Walpole, Edward Gibbon, George Grote, Thomas Moore, Samuel Rogers, Lord Byron, Lord Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, Thomas Carlyle, Anthony Trollope, William Morris, Sir Richard Burton, Frederick Locker-Lampson, Sir Walter Besant, Austin Dobson, George Bancroft, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Eliot Norton, Eugene Field, Henry Van Dyke, and Jack London.

Among the book-plates used by noblemen are those of the Earl of Chesterfield, the Earl of Halifax, the Earl of Macartney, the Earl of Aylesford, Lord Broughton, Lord Avebury, Lady Blessington, and Lucian Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon.

American Library Association

Report of Committee on nominations

President, Thomas L. Montgomery, librarian, State library, Harrisburg, Pa.; first vice-president, Judson Toll Jennings, librarian, Public library, Seattle, Wash.; second vice-president, Miss Caroline M. Underhill, librarian, Public library, Utica, N. Y.

Executive Board, Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.; Miss Electra C. Doren, librarian, Public library, Dayton, Ohio.

Members of the Council, Miss Edna B. Pratt, Organizer, New Jersey Public library commission, Trenton, N. J.; Miss Louisa M. Hopper, librarian, public library, Brookline, Mass.; Miss Mary Emogene Hazeltine, preceptor, University of Wisconsin library school, Madison, Wis.; Willis K. Stetson, librarian, Free public library, New Haven, Conn.; Malcolm G. Wyer, librarian, Nebraska University library, Lincoln, Neb.

Trustee of the Endowment fund, William W. Appleton, trustee, Public library, New York City.

The Nominating committee this year is as follows: H. C. Wellman, chairman; Gratia A. Countryman, Fannie C. Rawson, Charles H. Brown and Everett R. Perry.

GEO. B. UTLEY,
Secretary.

Library League Contest

In Philadelphia is an organization known as the Library league—a federation of evening clubs which meets at the branch libraries. Boys and girls from 12 to 16, many of whom have entered industrial life or who have very little incentive to continue the use of books as a means of self-development, are the club members. The club is used to attract them to the library and the programs are planned to send them to the book shelves for material.

The Library league is fairly successful in holding its members to the library in the first years of their industrial life and a serious effort is being made to keep the ideals big and broad enough to secure their life-long confidence.

An oratorical contest in the Library league was held on March 14 in the lecture room of the H. Josephine Widener branch. There were two representatives entered from each of the six clubs competing. The orations selected were all on political subjects.

The honor this year was won by Anthony R. Fretz of the Haddington league, a 13 year old Franco-American boy, who took for this work the address by Henry Ward Beecher, Our honoured dead. His address was specially well delivered. All of the addresses were good and showed a remarkable appreciation and understanding on the part of the speakers.

This contest is an annual event with a prize of a cup which is held for the year only, by the club to which the winning orator belongs. Students from the University of Pennsylvania train the speakers and the contests are held under the direction of Miss Julia Williamson, supervisor of the clubs and story telling for the library.

People who keep their physical and mental surplus drawn down very low by working a great many hours, who do not fill their reserve reservoir by frequent vacations and by a lot of recreation and play, do not work with anything like the freshness and mental vigor of those who work less hours and constantly accumulate great reserve power.

New York Public Library Report for 1916

The following are some of the more striking facts and figures presented in the report for the year ending December 31, 1916:

The books issued for home reading numbered 10,128,682; a decrease from the previous year of 255,897, due to the epidemic of poliomyelitis, because of which children were not admitted to the library from July 7 to September 25. The rate of increase in the use of the circulation department for the first half of the year by both adults and children, and by adults throughout the entire year shows that, if the epidemic had not occurred, the increase in circulation over the previous year would have been about 800,000 v.

Of the total number of books issued for home use, 3,796,808 were children's books; 783,035 were issued through the 860 stations; and 31,801 books, music scores, etc., were lent by the library for the blind (28,283 being sent by mail). The circulation of foreign books was 626,065.

The total number of persons recorded as using reading rooms of the branch libraries was 4,121,436.

The number of visitors to the Central building was 2,439,565, of whom 842,976 are recorded as consulting 2,321,303 books obtained by filling out "call slips"—a gain of 2% in readers and of 1% in volumes consulted. No record is kept of the use of books on open shelves by thousands of readers daily in the various rooms.

During the year, the reference department received 48,713 volumes and 77,395 pamphlets. The circulation department received 223,270 v. and 5,262 pamphlets.

At the end of the year, there were 1,033,919 v. and 316,530 pamphlets in the reference department; and in the circulation department, 1,109,547 v.—making the total for the whole library, 2,459,996 volumes and pamphlets.

The number of employees on December 31 was 1,224. Of these, 534 were in the reference department, 679 in the

circulation department, and 11 in the Municipal Reference branch.

The total cost for maintenance of the entire library system was \$1,452,843, of which \$627,914 was for the reference department, \$806,820 for the circulation department, and \$18,108 for the Municipal Reference branch. From the City of New York, the library received \$762,513 for maintenance of the branch libraries and the Municipal Reference branch. For the maintenance and repair of the central building (which is owned by the city), \$39,400 was received from the City of New York, but, aside from this, the reference department is supported entirely from the income of the endowment of the library corporation.

The class reference workers includes many doing national and world wide service. The prevailing type has changed from the high school student to the builder of commerce. The reference division failed to answer only one question—the history of gum drops.

The statistics for 1916 show the following increases in the use of the central building over that of 1912 (the first complete year of occupancy of the building); 111% in number of readers registered, 76% in number of volumes consulted, 15% in visitors to the building, 23% in the staff of the reference department, and 35% in the expenditures of the reference department. In the main reading room, which has seats for 768 readers, it has been a frequent occurrence to have every seat filled and readers waiting for a place at one of the tables. This extraordinary growth in the use of the library, together with the increased cost of administration, has brought it practically to the limit of its annual income.

In the Municipal Reference branch, a Public Health division has been formed, which supplies all books and printed matter required for the use of the various bureaus of the Health department.

The report is illustrated with reproductions of four pencil drawings by Mr Louis H. Ruyl, showing the exterior and interior of the central building.

A Contrast

An interesting contrast by a writer in *The Beacon*, Stratford, Ont., is drawn between public libraries in 1849 and those of today. The writer had happened upon an English journal containing a report on the possible public library if given support, made by a commission to the House of Commons, which he had read just before going to the Ontario library meeting at Toronto, and his comments on both are most enlightening. He points out in part:

Britain, in 1849, had two libraries that, by stretching the word, could be called public, one of them being the British Museum, and now her favorite daughter, Ontario, has almost 500. Then the books had to be "consumed on the premises," now all called public are lending, most of them are open in the evening also, but the British Museum is not doing so yet, and having reading-rooms provided with current journals.

Then libraries were warehouses or prisons, used to conserve or confine books; now they are explosive distributing points, the ordinary gauge of success being the number driven out into the world.

Then there were no women on the staffs; now library care is one of their chosen and successful professions, for which they voluntarily train, for which governments provide adequate training and teaching, and into which they put much effective enthusiasm.

At Toronto, they were almost exclusively the theme readers, and it is rarely that any equal number of men produce so much and so high a flood-tide level of genuine humor. It was that quality of treatment which shows that you have your matter under full control and can play with it.

One English journal, one Toronto meeting and one man's length of life linked up together, like a triangle map, enclose or bound a quite wondrous evolution, paralleled in no previous age of civilization. The fundamental balance of the world must be right when such intellectual progress is possible.

The Difference

A question as to what is the difference between the reference room and the technical room in the Public library of Portland, Ore., brought the following:

What the reference department contains

Reference collection.
Wilson library.
Periodical files.
Local newspaper files.
Art collection.
Oregon collection.
Maps and atlases.
Public Document collection.
Audubon books.
Curtis Indian pictures.
Indexes to periodicals and papers.

The technical room contains

Engineering books.
Patent Office publications.
Files of periodicals and transactions.
Trade catalogs.
"Made in Oregon" collection of trade catalogs.
Indexes to periodicals.

What the reference department does

Searches for material wanted.
Makes lists on subjects wanted.
Keeps you up-to-date on subjects wanted.

When You Want to Know

The author of a quotation.
Forms for a will.
Size of hole in bird house for martens.
Origin of postage stamps.
Income tax law.
Acreage and output of wheat in each county in Iowa.
How to make nails and screws.
Rope splicing.
Blue sky laws.
How to develop the city.
Consult your public library.
Telephone.

You may help the library by making known your needs. If the right book is not on the shelves, an effort will be made to get it.

Suggestions are welcomed by the book committee.

One side of a publicity folder of the Public library in Davenport, Ia., has the above attractively set.

Ontario Library Association

Toronto meeting

The recent meeting of the Ontario library association at Toronto, April 9-10, reached the high-water mark in interest, effectiveness and numbers, in the history of the association up to date. The registration was 284, though unquestionably many more were in attendance, of those interested though not sufficiently so to enroll.

The session on Monday morning was devoted to business connected with the administrative affairs of the association. The Executive board, made up of the councilors and other officers of the association, had luncheon together at noon, with the out-of-town speakers as guests. It was informal and very enjoyable.

At the afternoon session, the Controller of the city of Toronto gave an address of welcome in the name of the Mayor, who was prevented from being present. W. L. Lee, president of the Public library board of Toronto, expressed a welcome for the library and an interest in the work of the association.

The speakers of the afternoon had been asked to talk on the topic, "What seems to me an important aspect of the work of Public libraries at the present time."

Miss Mary J. L. Black, librarian of the Public library, Fort William, made the first presentation. Miss Black justly has the reputation of being one of the foremost librarians in the province and her library, which is 400 miles from Toronto, is one of the active forces doing good community service in that far-away but progressive locality. Miss Black's thesis was really of A. L. A. quality and the spritely and inspiring manner in which she made her plea for libraries to bring forward and push humorous reading at the present time as an antidote to the heavy gloom occasioned by the ghastly war, added force and point to her presentation of the worth-while literature which may be found in the class not called serious, but which at the same time is far from being light. Thackeray, Dickens, Kipling, Irving, Hart, Twain

and others were delightfully appraised as humorists.

Miss Mary Saxe, librarian of the Public library of West Mount, Quebec, in her usual delightful manner and with the keen, but kindly satire for which she is noted, set forth the qualities desirable in a librarian and particularly the one in charge of the reference room. It must all rest on real education and intelligence.

The question of how many books to purchase at this time, she said, was a difficult one to answer. She instanced how numerous were the books on the Franco-Prussian war, upon Russia, Germany and France which had remained long years on the shelves until this war broke out. It was the same during the South African war. If any book after four months' circulation becomes a stay-at-home, she said it was time to consider whether the money given for that book had been well spent. It is impossible to determine whether the coming generations will read war books.

Miss Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, Chicago, saw as an important aspect of the work of the public library, the result which might be obtained by a more serious presentation in the publicity work undertaken by public libraries. Both the community and the library ought to have a more serious and accurate realization of the reasons for the establishment of the library as one of the community interests. Miss Ahern uttered a word of alarm in regard to the ravages that are being made on truth, morality, concentration and intelligence, not to mention eye sight, by moving pictures of the present time. This last topic was the one which the public press took up, quoting the speaker in more vigorous terms than were used and going far beyond what she had dared to express as to the steps which should be taken to eliminate the harm done by moving pictures.

At the close of the session, a tea was given by the Toronto public library, where informal conversation and pleasant greetings were exchanged, thus giving the delegates from different

parts of the country an opportunity to become acquainted.

At the evening session, the hall was filled to overflowing by those interested in the program provided. The presidential address of George H. Locke, chief librarian of the Public library of Toronto, on the "Privileges and obligations of our public libraries in times of unrest," opened the session. Mr Locke's ideas as to the place and scope of public library service were not bounded by anything less than needs and opportunity. Those acquainted with the very effective and splendid service which is being rendered by the Toronto public library under Mr. Locke's administration, will understand that when an opportunity offered for him to emphasize what he considers the privileges and obligations of the library, that no element in the community was overlooked in advising the library to provide out of its means, such service as the occasion and conditions demand.

A most interesting address prepared by Dr Charles H. Thurber, head of the editorial department of Ginn & Company, Boston, on The making of a book, was listened to with deep attention as it was read by Mr Locke, Dr Thurber being prevented by illness from being present. The problems which enter into the selection of manuscripts, the decision with regard to the form of their presentation, illustrations, printing, selling and the cultural side of physical bookmaking itself, were most interestingly presented in the address.

It was deeply regretted by those present that the absence of Dr Thurber prevented them from meeting, face to face, one who in theory as well as practice, has such high ideals for the world of books.

An informal reception followed the evening session, in the halls of the Public library where the annual exhibit of the Ontario society of artists gave great delight. The entire reference department was open to the visitors, who enjoyed greatly seeing the treasures it contained, particularly the J. Ross Robinson historical collection relating to Canada.

On Tuesday morning, the committees made their reports. This was followed by an address by W. O. Carson, inspector of public libraries. Mr Carson showed in his address a remarkable grip of and insight into library conditions in the province, in view of the fact that he has been less than two years in his office. It may be safely predicted that with Mr Carson's fearless attitude toward his work, his keen intelligence and his past experience in actual service, that the libraries of Ontario will be brought to a high state of efficiency under his administration.

The value of the session in library training held in 1916, was very interestingly presented by Miss Josephine McCally of the Public library of St. Thomas, and Miss Muriel Page of the Public library of Hamilton.

The place and use of newspapers and periodicals in our public libraries in towns, was most interestingly presented by Miss Dunham, Public library of Kitchener (formerly Berlin), Miss A. M. Harris of the Public library of Guelph and Miss Middlemiss, Public library of Brantford.

Periodicals suitable for children's departments of our public libraries, by Miss Annie Jackson of the children's department, Public library, Toronto, was a fine presentation of a subject which is a source of some discouragement to most children's librarians. This paper will appear later in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Miss Black of Fort William, the new president for 1918, was introduced at the close of the program by the retiring president, Mr Locke. Her bright little speech of acceptance captivated her audience and gave an earnest of a coming year of good work.

A round table for children's librarians was held in the afternoon and at its close those present were taken to view the children's rooms in several of the branches of the Toronto public library.

An exhibit of books and supplies for public libraries was on view in the gallery of the reference library, in charge of courteous members of the firms rep-

resented. They also made a distinct contribution to the success of the meeting by their courteous attentions and assistance as occasion offered in the social sessions of the meeting.

The officers for the coming year are as follows:

President, Miss Mary J. L. Black, Fort William; first vice-president, F. P. Gavin, B. A., Windsor; second vice-president, D. M. Grant, B. A., Sarnia; secretary-treasurer, E. A. Hardy, B. A., D. Paed, 81 Collier street, Toronto.

Councillors: W. J. Sykes, B. A., Ottawa; W. H. Murch, St. Thomas; Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B. A., Kitchener; R. H. Bellamy, Mount Brydges; J. T. Lillie, B. A., Orillia; George H. Locke, M. A., ex-president, Toronto.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The April meeting of the Chicago library club was addressed by Dr Victor Yarros, a Russian radical engaged in newspaper work in Chicago. He gave a resumé of conditions leading up to the recent Russian revolution, pointing out facts in character, tradition and conditions in Russia which make it possible to construct a permanent democracy and also contribute to uncertainty that it will last.

Georgia—The library section of the Southern conference for education and industry held its meetings in Macon, Georgia, on March 19-21 during the meeting of the general conference. Owing to the threatened railroad strike the attendance on the whole conference was small. There were not more than a dozen library workers present so that the enthusiasm of those present had to offset the small attendance. Miss Minnie W. Leatherman, secretary of the North Carolina library commission, served in place of Miss Fay as chairman while Miss Tommie Dora Barker, librarian of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, acted as secretary.

Three sessions were held in Macon, one on public libraries, one on school libraries and one on library extension. At the session on public libraries Mr C. Seymour Thompson, librarian of the Savannah public library, presented the subject

of Adequate appropriation and how to get it. Mr Thompson made the point that the authorities must be impressed with the fact that the library was a good investment for the community. Miss Frances R. Archer, librarian of the Talladega public library, spoke on the Aims and methods of publicity work, outlining the work that had been done in Talladega through the schools and the story hour and emphasized the fact that good service was the best publicity that a library could have.

At the session on school libraries, a number of teachers were present. R. M. Kennedy, librarian of the University of South Carolina, gave a list on Some printed aids for the teacher-librarian. In introducing his subject, Mr Kennedy stated that there were three things every teacher should be instructed in and they were the selection of books, a definite plan of arrangement for books and how to use books. He then gave a list of a dozen or more aids that would be of use to the teacher-librarian. Miss Mary E. Robbins, associate director of the Atlanta library school, spoke on Instruction to students in the use of books pointing out the urgent need for systematic instruction along this line. At the third session on library extension, Miss Susie Lee Crumley, organizer of the Georgia library commission, spoke on the Purposes and activities of a library commission, stressing particularly the conditions and needs in the Southern states. The Library section was represented on the general program of the conference by Miss Tommie Dora Barker, librarian of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, who presented the subject of The library and vocational progress.

No election was held pending the announcement as to where the conference would meet in 1918.

TOMMIE DORA BARKER,
Secretary.

Iowa—The meetings of the Iowa City library club this year have proved unusually interesting, for at them have been presented various modern plays. These provide a change from the usual papers

and carry on well the club's dramatic study of the past two years.

The officers for the year are: President, Nina Shaffer; vice-president, Ruth Gallaheer; secretary, Dorothy Dondore.

Minnesota—The Spring meeting of the Twin City library club was held in Minneapolis, March 21, and about 100 members dined together. Miss Mary Prindle of the Public library commission, gave a most interesting talk on her recent trip to Hawaii, where she spent some time with Miss Helen Stearns, formerly of the Minnesota library commission, who accompanied her to the Orient. Miss Prindle spoke of the library conditions in the various countries visited and related many interesting experiences in China and Japan.

Joseph W. Beach, University of Minnesota, discussed the poetry of the day, reading selections from Frost, Lindsay, Masters and Sandburg.

AMY COWLEY, Secretary.

Ohio—At the meeting of the Ohio library association last October, the College section decided after some discussion to ally itself with college interests by meeting as a co-operating society with the Ohio college association at its meeting the next spring in Columbus. This meeting planned by the chairman, Wallace H. Cathcart, director of the Western Reserve historical society museum convened, April 6, in the Ohio State University library. The nine different institutions represented in attendance were Adelbert college, Denison university, Miami university, Oberlin college, Ohio state library, Ohio State University library, Ohio Wesleyan university, Western college for women and Western Reserve historical society.

The program was interesting both in the papers presented and in the discussions that followed the reading of them. The program given was as follows:

1. The awkward age in college libraries, George F. Strong, librarian of Adelbert college of Western Reserve university.
2. Files of Ohio newspapers in Columbus libraries, C. W. Reeder, reference librarian Ohio State University.
3. How the college librarian may be most

helpful to the student, Grace E. Herrick, librarian, Western college for women.

4. Making of the shelf-list in the New York public library, Kenneth D. Metcalf, acting-librarian, Oberlin college.

Keen interest was shown in Mr Metcalf's account of the part played by the photo-stat in the making of shelf list for the New York public library. The colossal task of providing a library of 75 years' growth with a shelf list was accomplished in two years with the aid of this modern invention unfortunately too expensive to be of value to a small institution.

Mr Reeder's paper gave rise to a discussion on files of Ohio newspapers in the institutions represented in the meeting and on the general question of the advisability of keeping files of newspapers in a college library and the preservation of them if they are kept. The outcome of this discussion was the adopting of a motion giving the Chair authority to appoint a committee to consider the matter of newspaper files in Ohio college libraries.

In view of the interest shown in this session it was agreed to meet again in the spring of 1918 with the Ohio college association, in addition to the usual meeting next fall as a section of the Ohio library association.

BERTHA M. SCHNEIDER.

Coming meetings

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Maine library association will be held at Kittery, Maine, May 25-26.

The California library association will hold its annual meeting in Los Angeles, Cal., during the week of June 4-9. Headquarters will be at the Hollywood hotel and the sessions will be held at the Hollywood Women's club house. Special arrangements will be made for the systematic visiting and inspection of typical libraries in Los Angeles, representing different forms of library service, particularly the Public library and its Carnegie branches, the Los Angeles county free library and the high school libraries.

The joint meeting of librarians and the ad clubs in Chicago has been postponed till May 25.

Interesting Things in Print

The March *Bulletin* of the A. L. A. gives details and arrangements for the meeting to be held in Louisville, June 21-27.

A reprint of "Notes on legal bibliography," from the *Law Library Journal*, January, 1917, has been issued by F. C. Hicks, law librarian of the Columbia university.

The *Journal* of the Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City, Mo., has a list of books for the business man, compiled by the Public library of that city every week.

Two recent lists are The Business man's library, representative titles selected from the collection of business books in the Brooklyn public library, and Amateur theatricals, also selected from the collection in the same library.

The John Crerar library has issued a new list of its books on The history of science, prepared by A. G. S. Josephson, as a supplement to the list which was issued in 1911. The list contains nearly 800 titles and is No. 12 of the library's bibliographical publications.

A list of references on Schoolroom decorations, has been issued by the New York public library, compiled by Rachel H. Beall. The list is a help to those interested in beautifying and decorating the schoolroom. A few titles on the study of pictures are given.

The thesis on Public libraries in the South, presented for graduation at the Library school of the New York public library, by May V. Crenshaw, revised and brought up to date, has been reprinted. It may be obtained from the Library school, 476 Fifth avenue, New York City, for 25c.

The *Boston University News* of April 10 contains a very interesting account of the library of the College of Business Administration of the university. The article on this library is the fifteenth of a series of articles on the special libraries in Boston, written by Ralph L. Power, librarian of the C. B. A.

The High school and the public library, by Kate L. Stewart, B. A., is most interestingly and helpfully discussed in the April number of *The School*, published by the University of Toronto faculty of education.

The article tells of the work done in common between the Toronto public library and the Humber side collegiate institute.

An outline for study in Vocational education and guidance of youth, has been prepared by Emily Robison and is issued by the H. W. Wilson Company, 35c. It consists of 17 programs with page references and bibliography. Some of the topics discussed are Industrial education, Industrial training for girls, Co-operation of agencies, Commercial and agricultural education and Household arts.

Asa Don Dickinson follows the usual custom of the traveler away from home and has written "The Panjab library primer," having in mind the libraries of Panjab (which the *Gazetteer* lists under Punjab and locates in the northwest part of British India). For American libraries the book has only a curious interest as it is made up entirely of the first principles of library economy, gathered from accepted sources, and adapted to a new field. The author makes no claim for the little volume beyond its usefulness to those with whom he was associated in his year's stay in Panjab as library organizer.

The annual *Magazine Subject-Index*, 1916, and the *Dramatic Index*, 1916, have been issued in one volume by the Boston Book Company. There are 150 different periodicals, exclusive of those in the Readers' guide and those that were not included in *Poole's Index*. Many of the periodicals formerly included in *Poole's* are included so that it is a continuation of that index. There are 28 British and eight Canadian periodicals included. The *Dramatic Index* is termed Part II of the volume and there is also an Appendix of published plays and dramatic books of the year. Price of the Annual, \$8.50. Bound separately, \$9.00. p. 269+297+42.

A history of the British Museum library by Gertrude Burford Rawlings, has been issued by the H. W. Wilson Company. The writer in her preface acknowledges her indebtedness to material sources and her readers will, in turn, acknowledge their indebtedness to her gift of story-telling which pours life into what is so often a dry and tedious tale, so that her story of the famous library has such a decided human interest that one reads it fascinated. Taking books and manuscripts out of the care of officials to save them for national use, is so told as to appear a praiseworthy act though it is admitted that the method "annoyed the keeper of the records." The discussion of the catalog (spelled with *ue*) is delightful in its presentation of the old philosophy which always comes up when one not a modern, presents the subject of classification and cataloging. The chapters on the treasurers of the museum represent the oft repeated but always bewildering recital of what interests the writer, but which as often serves to excite the disappointment of the reader afar off, that he has not seen and known the treasures too.

A Sign of Appreciation

The Carnegie corporation has offered a gift of \$35,000 to Riverside, Calif., provided that city will raise \$30,000 with which to make the library building adequate to the needs of the city. In speaking of the project, the *Riverside Press* says, among other things:

The local institution has a national prominence on account of its schools, which attract students from every nook and corner of the country. There have been 250 students and teachers who have attended the library schools, who came from all parts of the United States, all of whom are now prominent in library work wherever their duties have called them.

The people of Riverside should appreciate the fact that they have an opportunity to secure some valuable assistance for the library by authorizing a comparatively small bond issue. The library is establishing a place for itself as an educational institution of national prominence. Its extension work is growing too rapidly for its floor space. The building will either have to be enlarged or the school will be impossible to continue.

Library Schools

Carnegie library at Atlanta

During the past month Miss Laura Hammond, librarian of the Georgia school of technology, gave two lectures to the school on the Administration of a college library. The lectures were followed by a visit to the Tech library which was inspected under the guidance of Miss Hammond.

The class also visited the State library and the legislative reference division of the State library during the month.

At the close of the course on the history of printing the students visited a printing establishment where they had demonstrated to them all the processes of printing.

Mrs Edna Lyman Scott gave her regular course on Work with children March 19-31. On March 29, the school presented Mrs Scott in a story-telling recital to which a number of guests were invited. After the recital an informal reception was held.

Dr Crenshaw, professor of modern languages at the Georgia school of technology, started on April 10 a course of 12 lectures on elementary Spanish.

TOMMIE DORA BARKER,

Director.

Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh

The school opened for the third term April 9.

Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, lectured on "Co-operation of the public library with other social agencies" and the "St. Louis public library," March 19.

On March 28, the school had the pleasure of hearing a lecture on Ballads by Mr Cecil J. Sharp, director of the English folk-dance society, London, England. Mr Sharp spent some time in the Appalachian mountains taking down old ballads as they are still sung by the people. He considers we have a storehouse of valuable material here in America where the ballads have been preserved in a purer form than in England.

Miss Carrie E. Scott, organizer, Indiana library commission, Indianapolis, gave a course of seven lectures on the

"Administration of small libraries," April 9-13.

The following courses are scheduled for the Spring term: Administration of small libraries, bookbinding, book selection, cataloging, departmental routine, order work, parliamentary law, preparation of copy for the printer, printing, public speaking, round table, seminar for periodical review, story-telling.

Grace Endicott, '10, has been appointed first assistant in the children's department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Ethel Sevin, '09, has, owing to illness in her family, resigned her position of children's librarian in the Brooklyn public library.

University of Illinois

From March 19 to April 14, members of the senior class were assigned to various libraries for field work, the assignment being this year as follows: Win-tress Brennan, Public library, Gary, Ind.; Ella Campbell, Galesburg public library; Lillie Cilley, Public library, Davenport, Ia.; Vivian Colgrove, Decatur public library; Florence Craig, Newberry library; Florence Crouse, Girls' high school library, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Cena L. Sprague, Joliet public library; Sallie Vaught, Library of the Portland Cement association, Chicago; Lois Woods, Public library, Kansas City, Mo. Two of this year's class, Jessie E. Weston and Ruth Hammond, had already completed their field work, spending the customary four weeks last summer in the service of the Denver public library.

Elizabeth Forrest, B. L. S. '06, who is at present on leave of absence from her position as librarian of the Montana State college of agriculture and mechanic arts, and is working for the M. A. degree at the University of Chicago, visited the library and library school the last of March. During her stay, Miss Forrest gave a very practical talk before the junior class, showing the possibilities of rendering efficient library service in a library with little equipment and small funds.

Grace Campbell, '15-16, has been appointed recently an assistant in the Public library, Joliet, Ill.

Margaret Winning, '13-14, has resigned her position on the staff of the Rosenberg

library, Galveston, Texas, to accept the position of assistant librarian in the Wasco county library, The Dalles, Oregon.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Assistant-director.

New York public library

The seniors and the advanced students have had a course in Italian by Professor Theophile E. Comba.

Miss Sutliff and Miss Handerson, with two of the juniors, represented the school at the Atlantic City meeting.

The Albany library school students were visitors April 3-4 and were entertained by the students with a tea, Tuesday afternoon. The former Albany students at the central building were invited guests.

The annual Spring trip was followed by a vacation of five days before beginning the work of the Spring term. The cities visited were Baltimore where visits were made to the Johns Hopkins university, Enoch Pratt library, and the library of Peabody institute. At Washington, Thursday and Friday were spent in visiting libraries and Saturday and Sunday were spent sight-seeing. In Philadelphia, library visiting and sight-seeing were combined. The libraries of the Library Company and the Commercial museum and the Curtis Publishing Company, were visited.

Agnes McClure, junior, '12, has taken a position with The H. W. Wilson Company, White Plains, N. Y.

Mrs Maude Durlin Merritt, junior, '12, has been transferred from Hamilton Fish branch to the Reference cataloging department.

Elizabeth Baldwin, '13, has resigned her position with the Longmans Green Company and is at present taking a course in stenography.

Gertrude Olmsted, '13, has resigned her position with the American Museum of Safety.

Marguerite Entler, junior, '13, has been appointed librarian of the Washington high school, Portland, Oregon.

Theodore M. Avé-Lallemant, junior, '14, secretary of the Research department of the National Americanization, has returned to New York after five months leave of absence to serve as research assistant in the Division of Immigrant Education, Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

Mrs Rachel Beall, '15, has been trans-

ferred from the 125th Street branch to St. Agnes branch as First assistant.

Dorothy Rogers, '15, has resigned her position in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to accept the position of High-school librarian in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Alice F. Rupp, '15, has resigned her position in the New Rochelle public library and has been appointed assistant at Tremont branch, New York public library.

Ralph Gossage (student, 1915), who left the school to engage in relief work in Holland, has returned to this country. He accepted a position in the reference department of New York public library, but after serving a few months was called to his home by the serious illness of his father. He writes from Oskaloosa, Iowa, that he recently spoke to 700 high-school students in Ottumwa on the subject of his work in Holland and libraries visited in England.

Anna Brackbill, junior, '16, has been confined to her home by severe illness for the past two months. She hopes to be able to return to work by May first.

Grace Cook, junior, '16, has resigned her position in New York public library to become assistant in the Engineering library of Columbia university.

AZARIAH S. ROOT,
Principal.

Ernest J. Reece has been appointed principal of the Library school of the New York public library and will assume his duties, September 1, at which time Mr Root will return to Oberlin college, his year's leave of absence having expired.

Mr Reece was graduated from the Western Reserve university, '03, and the Western Reserve library school, '05. He was assistant in the reference department of the Cleveland library for one year, from which he resigned to enter the Oberlin theological seminary, where he studied for two years and at the same time, taught in the night school for foreigners, conducted by the Y. M. C. A. He spent the years 1908-'11 in establishing the library at Oahu college, Honolulu, in its new building. He became instructor in the University of Illinois library school in 1912, where he has remained until the present. During this time he was also in joint charge of the Summer session. He pursued graduate study in political science in the university and published a handbook entitled State documents for libraries, with a

brief bibliography, Selected Illinois documents. For two years, he has been secretary of the Illinois library association.

New York state library

A senior elective course on High school library work will be offered in 1917-18. It will consist of lectures, discussions and reports on the needs and conditions in High school libraries. The active co-operation of the New York State college for teachers and the Albany high school have been promised for practice work. The School libraries and Visual instruction divisions of the State education department will provide opportunity for the study of problems arising in their work and several specialists of the department will present the subject from the viewpoint of the teachers. As opportunity permits, students in the course will assist in organizing high school libraries throughout the state during the month of March. The course will be open to any qualified senior and may be taken, in connection with the junior year, by well-prepared first-year students with special pedagogic training and teaching experience. As the course will extend throughout the year, it will not be open to part-time students or those who are ineligible for regular admission to the school.

The annual library trip ended April 11. The usual libraries in New York, Newark, Philadelphia and Washington were visited and unusually good weather made the trip very pleasant. On Monday, April 1, a large number of the students paid a voluntary visit to the plant of the H. W. Wilson Co., at White Plains, N. Y. After the formal close of the trip about a dozen returned to Albany by way of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where they visited the Osterhout library under the guidance of Miss Dorrance of the class of 1918.

The class of 1917 have in several cases completed their original bibliographies and nearly all of the others are nearing completion.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

The spring trip, March 24-31, was one of the most interesting professionally

and delightful socially of any that our School has taken, and the students returned full of enthusiasm for library work and with a realization that though there may be nine-and-sixty ways of doing most things, the same spirit of service and *esprit du corps* animates librarians everywhere. We saw the libraries of two universities, Princeton and Pennsylvania, two smaller college libraries, Bryn Mawr and Dickinson, a large library system—Philadelphia, a medium-sized public library—Trenton, and a small library, the very centre of village life—the Abington library at Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. We visited the state libraries of New Jersey and Pennsylvania and heard about the commission work of the two states from the workers therein. We spent a day at Hagerstown and saw the work of the Washington County library in its town and county aspects. There was time to hear in detail of the work of the book wagon and of the county stations, as well as the school and children's work of the library in Hagerstown. Everywhere we were made welcome with a bounteous hospitality, of which the limitations of space forbid detailed acknowledgment.

A very interesting problem in book selection was worked out by the class last term—the selection of \$250 worth of books for a small library in South Carolina, which had been recently burned out. The list included juvenile and adult books, reference books, fiction and non-fiction, and to secure a fairly representative well-rounded collection for the money made a problem of unusual value.

The entrance examinations for the class of 1918 will be held on Friday, June 1.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-director.

Simmons college

Visits have been made recently to the North End branch of the Boston public library and to the store of the Curtis and Cameron Company. The latter had not previously been on the Library school schedule for visits, but this year the firm courteously permitted the library econ-

omy class to come in two groups to see the Copley prints and the Medici prints, in connection with their study of the use of pictures in libraries.

Visiting lecturers for the month have been: Miss Maud J. Campbell, of the Massachusetts free public library commission, on Work with foreigners; John A. Lowe, who gave an illustrated lecture on Advertising; Miss Margaret Kneil, librarian of the Somerville high school library, who spoke in the course on High school libraries.

The spring recess occurred March 22-April 3.

Dr Wolcott of the U. S. Bureau of Education has generously loaned not only his collection of pictures of high school libraries, but a number of lantern slides.

Isabelle Chaffin, Simmons '15, has been put in charge of the library of the Norton company, Worcester, Mass.

Margaret Sinclair, Simmons '17, is doing temporary work in Williams College library.

Clara Beetle, Simmons '14, has been appointed cataloger at Northwestern university.

Florence Finley, Simmons '06, is assistant in the library of the Arthur D. Little Company, Boston.

Louise Hoxie, Simmons '13-'14, has been appointed senior assistant in the Detroit public library.

Marian Cross, Simmons '15, is resigning from the library of Clark university to take a year's rest.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,
Director.

Western Reserve university

The course in Book binding given by Miss Gertrude Stiles, supervisor of the Binding department of the Cleveland public library, began March 21 and will continue for 10 weeks, with practical work in binding and repair of books.

In the Book selection course, lectures have been given by Miss Virginia E. Graeff of the Cleveland art school on Books of the fine arts and by Prof C. C. Arbutnot, head of the Economics department of Adelbert college, W. R. U., on books on Economics.

In the Library administration course, Miss Eastman's lectures on Library buildings and furniture have continued.

Miss Bessie Sargeant Smith, supervisor of the smaller branches and high school libraries of the Cleveland public library, gave one lecture on High school libraries, and Carl P. P. Vitz, second vice-librarian of the Cleveland public library, gave a lecture on Printing and proof-reading.

In the Public library and community welfare course, Sherman C. Kingsley, director of the Welfare federation of Cleveland, spoke on the work of the federation in its contact with human problems.

Other lectures given during the month have been those on Parliamentary practice, by Mrs. C. S. Selover, of Cleveland, Parliamentarian of the Ohio federation of Women's clubs; the History and field of the A. L. A. by George B. Utley, secretary of the A. L. A.; and County libraries by Joseph L. Wheeler, librarian, Reuben McMillan free library, Youngstown.

Miss Nelle C. White, for many years secretary of the School, now executive secretary of Blair academy, Blairstown, N. J., was a welcome caller at the school while on a brief visit to her family in Cleveland.

ALICE S. TYLER,
Director.

University of Wisconsin

The field practice period came to a close March 28 and the spring quarter commenced April 3, after a brief recess. Two delightful lectures were given by Miss Jessie B. Rittenhouse, literary editor of the *New York Times*, the first on "American poets of today" on the evening of April 5, under the auspices of the Library School but open to the public, and with an audience of 600. She spoke again to the school the following morning on "Contemporary lyric poets of America."

Miss Caroline Burnite visited the school on April 10 and 11 and spoke on the children's work in Cleveland and the training class for children's librarians.

Miss Marion Humble, an instructor in the school and visitor for the commission since August, 1913, presented her resignation in March, to accept the posi-

tion of acting-library editor for the Detroit public library. In connection with her instruction and field work, she edited a new edition of the *Suggestive list for children's books* and was a constant contributor to the *Wisconsin Bulletin*. She will be greatly missed by her associates in the school and the librarians of the state.

At the Phi Beta Kappa election in April, two students in the Library school classes were honored by the society, Vivian Swerig, senior in the joint course, and Margaret Stauffer, senior taking the course for teacher-librarian.

A luncheon was given for Miss Jessie Rittenhouse during her visit to the school. In honor of Miss Carpenter and Miss Humble, Miss Hazeltine entertained the faculty at a breakfast, April 1. Miss Humble was also entertained by the class and later by Mr and Mrs Lester.

Ruth Knowlton, '09, has been appointed, under civil service, to a position in the library of the Bureau of labor statistics, Washington. She has been assistant librarian in the Oshkosh state normal school for several years.

Florence Fisher, '13, children's librarian in the Eau Claire public library, has accepted a similar position in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Lucius H. Cannon, '14, is serving as acting reference librarian in the Racine public library, during the leave of absence of Lillian Jones, '09.

Leona L. Clark, '15, has been appointed to a position in the library of the Department of agriculture, Washington, beginning work April 20. She has been employed in the Wisconsin civil service commission for the past year. Both of these positions were won in civil service examinations.

Laura J. Gage, '15, accepted the position as assistant in charge of stations in the Superior public library. Since graduation she has been in the cataloging and reference department of the Cincinnati public library.

Sophia Hall, '16, completed work for her bachelor's degree at the university in February and was appointed assistant in the Platteville state normal school library, March 1.

Juliet Lawrence, '16, joined the staff of the Public library, Detroit, Mich., March 1, resigning her position in the Public library, Duluth, Minn.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Preceptor.

A library scholarship

The St Paul college club has instituted a library scholarship to be awarded to some member of the public library planning to attend a library school. It is believed that this is the first time in the history of libraries that such a scholarship has been established.

Summer schools

The seventh annual Summer session of the University of Illinois library school will begin June 18, 1917, and continue for six weeks, using the ample quarters and equipment of the Library school. The principal instructors are Miss Ethel Bond and Miss Sabra W. Vought, of the Library school faculty, and Miss Eva Cloud, librarian of the Kewanee public library.

Many incidental advantages accrue to the students of the summer session of the Library school because of its connection with the University.

The Summer session of the Library school is intended primarily for Illinois librarians who wish the training but who are unable to take a regular library school course. Applicants must have graduated from a high school, and must be engaged in library work, either as librarian, library assistant or teacher-librarian. No fee is required of students registering from Illinois libraries; students from other states pay a fee of \$12.

For a circular, giving fuller information, address the Director of the University of Illinois library school, Urbana, Illinois.

A summer school for library workers will be held at State College, by the Pennsylvania Free library commission, June 25-Aug. 3.

The students in the library school may take one subject in the course for teachers, without additional expense. Credentials showing that the applicant either holds a library position, or is under appointment to one must be presented with the application. Tuition will be free to all residents of Pennsylvania. Others will be expected to pay a fee of \$20. Full information will be sent on application to the Free library commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

Department of School Libraries

School Exhibit

The Inland Empire teachers' association was held April 4, in Spokane, Wash.

One of the interesting things in connection with it was the attention that was given to library service as part of high school equipment. There was an exhibit of unusual interest, showing the library material that could be made helpful for English departments as illustrated by material in use in the two high schools in Spokane.

The material was grouped under:

1. Composition.
2. Literature.
3. Library training.

Outlines filled out with selected material were furnished throughout seven courses in English. The following, somewhat condensed, gives an idea of the value of the outlines:

English I

Composition

1. Pictures used for exercises in description.
 - a. Landscape.
 - b. Persons.
 - c. Animals.
 - d. Action.
2. Books on letter writing.
 - a. Altmaier—Commercial correspondence.
 - b. Cody—How to do business.
 - c. Westlake—How to write.
 - d. Stevenson—Letters.

Literature

1. Pictures.
 - a. Tissot Bible pictures.
 - b. National geographic magazine.
 - c. Lincoln portraits.
 - d. Treasure Island pictures.
 - e. White mountain pamphlet.
2. Illustrated editions.
 - a. Treasure Island.
 - b. Pilgrim's progress.
 - c. Kipling—Jungle book.
3. Collateral reading.
 - a. Hodges—Class book of Old Testament stories.
 - b. Overton—Stevenson.
 - c. Gross—Lincoln's own stories.
 - d. Nicolay—Boy's life of Lincoln.

Library training

1. Readers' guide.
2. How to open a book.
3. Sample pages of dictionaries.
4. Sample pages of encyclopedias.
5. Books.
 - Dana—Bookbinding.

The exhibit was arranged for by Miss Lucile Fargo of the North Central high school, Spokane, Wash. There was one table devoted to a more general aspect of high school library work, covering the following points:

- a. Care and organization of the high school library.
- b. Lists of books for high school libraries.
- c. Books on the instruction of use of the library.

A meeting of librarians was held in connection with the Inland Empire teachers' association, April 4-5. Miss Gertrude Buckhouse, librarian of the University of Montana, presided.

State Superintendent J. H. Churchill of Salem, Oregon, told of the work in Oregon where the school libraries are under the State library and all the libraries are responsible to the State library for their work. The State library issues two lists of books, one for elementary, the other for high schools. Their use has greatly improved the character of the school libraries.

Statements of Supt Churchill of great significance coming as they do from a school man and not from a librarian, were:

If I could visit but one department of a school to find out what kind of work the school does, I would ask to sit in the library for a while.

The State Education department of Oregon has recommended to its superintendents that in any high school employing as many as 10 teachers, nine of these be used on the regular teaching force and the tenth one be a trained librarian, who may give her whole time to library work and thus serve the other nine. Inside of 10 years there will not be a high school of that size in the Northwest which does not employ a librarian trained in some one of our standard library schools.

The second speaker was Principal R. L. Lipscomb, High school, Hilliard, Wash. The subject was, "The need for trained librarians in small high schools." Mr Lipscomb spoke from personal experience as he has just been having his

own library organized. He had supposed at first that if someone came down for a few hours and told him how, he could do the rest himself. That was about eight weeks ago. A trained librarian has been at work since, not giving her whole time, to be sure, but, nevertheless, devoting many hours to the work, and it is not finished yet.

Discussion of this paper was opened by Mr Coffman, from the English department of the Uni. of Montana. "One need in our higher institutions," said Mr Coffman, "is instruction in the use of the library."

Mr Davies, of Butte, added to this, that we should not get the idea that, as the number in our high schools increases, one trained librarian is going to be able to do all the work. In a very large high school it takes one person just to attend to the discipline and the mechanical details. If we double the number of librarians we increase the efficiency about six times.

Mrs Josephine C. Preston, superintendent of public instruction, Washington, spoke next on the subject The county library, a plan of co-operation, the only way to give the country people equal privileges with the city people. A book or a visitor means a great deal to the people in the country.

Miss Adella Parker, teacher of history and economics in a Seattle high school, told in a very entertaining manner of her work in getting the students in her classes interested in magazine reading, especially articles of a nature not usually attractive to the youthful mind, but most instructive. She told how she bound the magazines, stripped of all superfluous reading matter, in attractive red bindings. Then she gave the work as assignments to be checked up monthly by the members of her classes.

"I wanted them to know both authors and magazines," said Miss Parker. "They read them, although at first a bit grudgingly. However, there is not a boy or girl who is not attracted by matter to be found in some one of the standard magazines. Moreover, I have had

students of former years come to me and tell me how deeply they appreciated the magazine work. So I know it to be a success and am adding to its possibilities every year. It certainly pays to have books in the classroom, to get the pupils started using them when they would not go to the library for such reading."

Miss Lucile Fargo, of the North Central high school, Spokane, explained the idea of the exhibit (see p—). Library aids in teaching English, including pictures, illustrated editions of the classics, collateral reading, and student exercises in library training work, made up the greater part of the exhibit.

Kenneth G. Olson, of the Lewis and Clark high school, Spokane, gave a concise talk on the use of the library in teaching English.

"The library is a wonderful machine," said Mr. Olson, "and if the boy learns to use it he gains power as he would in mastering any machine."

He outlined four groups of material which he tells his students to look for in looking up a certain subject: The encyclopedias and dictionaries, the encyclopedias of special subjects, general books on a given subject, to be found by looking in the card catalog and in the indexes of books on that subject, periodical information to be found in the *Readers' Guide* and *Poole's Index*, and last the documentary books such as the *Congressional Record*.

An invitation was given to all present to attend the Library section of the N. E. A. at Portland and the program to be given there was briefly outlined.

On Thursday, 20 were present at a librarians' luncheon, and the nominating committee reported—Miss Gertrude Buckhouse, University of Montana, president, Wm. W. Foote, State college, Pullman, Washington, secretary.

MARY C. RICHARDSON.

The friends made in books are as helpful or harmful as those made in school. Let your children own only the books whose character are strong, true, worth knowing.

News From the Field East

The annual report of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes library of Old Lyme, Mass., for 1916, shows a total circulation of 9175v. with 7649 books in the library.

Cards have been received announcing the marriage of Josephine S. Heydrick Pratt '94, until recently librarian of the Pequot library at Southport, Connecticut, to the Rev. W. H. Holman of Southport.

The report of the Public library of Dover, N. H., on the year's work, records a circulation of 77,010 v., fiction 63 per cent; number of volumes in the library 45,456.

Efforts are being started to raise a fund for the purchase and preservation of the home of John Greenleaf Whittier at Amesbury, Mass., by the Whittier home society of that place.

The Memorial Hall library, Andover, Mass., reports for 1917, a circulation of 40,377v. in a town of 7,300 inhabitants, with an especially large reference use. The gifts of the year include the Catholic encyclopedia and the new edition of the New International encyclopedia.

The annual report of the Public library of Greenfield, Mass., shows a total circulation of 79,030v. with 33,916 books on the shelves and 5033 registered borrowers. The task of reclassifying and recataloging the books in the library has been finished.

The annual report of the Public library of Brookline, Mass., records number of volumes lent for home use, 231,602, prints, 4648. Number of volumes on the shelves, 92,649. Lectures and exhibits were held at the library during the year. Receipts for the year, \$34,637; expenditures, \$34,636.

The annual report of the Fletcher free library, Burlington, Vt., for 1916, records a year of increased activity in all branches of the work. The total circulation was 94,244v. with a borrowers' list of 6899. The children's room and reference room have been busy and attendance has been very good. Some

school service has been extended and it is hoped this will expand.

The bill exempting library employees from civil service has been withdrawn from the Massachusetts legislature. The Civil Service commission insists that it has no intention of classifying the library assistants and, those in charge, relying on this promise, agreed with the commission that the bill was needless. It was, therefore, withdrawn.

The annual report of the Public library of Attleboro, Mass., records a total circulation of 67,197 v. with a borrowers list of 2334 and 19,103 v. in the library. Three lectures were given at the library during the year and an interesting exhibit of books as Christmas gifts for children, was held during the holidays. During Health week, an exhibit of books on health was held by the library at the Y. M. C. A. The library has been active in advertising in various ways with good results.

The annual report of the Public library of Malden, Mass., contains a review of the work of the library for the past five years. Within that time the circulation has grown 34 per cent, use of the reference department 40 per cent. One branch has been established and two deposit stations. Deposits were sent also to six fire stations and to all the grades of 17 schools, with the exception of the first and second grades. The hours have been reduced from 46 to 40. The minimum and maximum salaries have been raised. Two-thirds of the library has been reclassified and recataloged. The circulation for 1916 reached 243,317 v.; number of volumes on the shelves, 69,604; number of borrowers, 12,089, 25 per cent of the population of the city. The total expenditures for library maintenance was \$23,207, of which \$4095 was for books and \$11,566 for salaries. An addition to the building gave a larger children's room with a separate entrance, an additional art room, more space for the cataloging force and study rooms for the juvenile department.

The report of the Boston Athenaeum for 1916 gives a resumé of the process

of combining the two indexes which the library possessed; one in five volumes and the other on cards.

Copies of the printed catalog were cut up so that the titles might be pasted on cards. This work required the greatest care and accuracy, as something like 300,000 small thin slips of paper had to be pasted and kept in order. The work was entrusted to the Library Bureau under the direction of Miss Emma W. Sherman, under whom it was completed in one and a half years. After the delivery of the cards to the Athenaeum it was necessary to harmonize the author entries with those already in the supplementary card catalog and to supply the accurate bibliographical data necessary for a completed catalog. The result furnishes a complete card catalog of the contents of the Athenaeum containing the latest information. The entire enterprise has been under the direction of Miss Linda F. Wildman, to whose constant attention for the last 12 years is due the result of a consistent, accurate and complete catalog.

A gift to the library in the year was a miscellaneous collection of newspapers covering the years of 1768-1842. These have been filed under their distinguishing names and localities and form a valuable source of information to historians.

A list of books, newspapers, maps, music and miscellaneous matter, printed in the South during the Confederacy has been placed in the library under the title of Confederate literature, with an introduction by James Ford Rhodes.

An exhibition of autographs, engraved portraits, caricatures and books relating to Dr Samuel Johnson and the circle of distinguished men and women of his time in England, was held in the Spring of 1916.

A set of the official diaries of the Supreme governors of United States of Mexico, 1877-1910, has been placed in the library.

The library report gives a long list of very interesting gifts of the year from people connected with local and national history.

George Hill Evans, former librarian of the Public library of Woburn, Mass., has been elected librarian of the Public library of Somerville to succeed Drew B. Hall, resigned. Mr Evans was in charge of one of the Brooklyn branch libraries before going to Woburn.

Central Atlantic

Earle D. Willey has been appointed librarian of the Delaware state library.

Rebecca Schneider, B. L. S., N. Y. State, '14, was married to Charles A. Waxman of Seattle on April 5.

Helen S. Carpenter, N. Y. State, '10-'11, resigned her position with The H. W. Wilson Company in March to take charge of the filing system of the National Committee on Prisons, New York City.

The New York society library, which was created by royal charter in 1772, has received a bequest of \$600,000 and letters written by George Washington, by the will of the late Sarah C. Goodhue, Litchfield, Conn.

Mr A. Houghton Pratt, late of the firm of Houghton Mifflin & Company, has withdrawn from that firm and will engage in business separately. Mr Pratt will act as counsellor in fine private libraries, rare books and art objects. His address is City club, New York City.

The New York public library had an exhibit of recent accessions in their print department; during April. It included 50 etchings by MacLaughlan, 16 by Allen Lewis, 24 lithographs by Odilon Redon, drawings by Rodin, Mauve, Blum, Phil May, Luks and others, monotypes and miscellaneous prints, bringing the number to about 250.

Mrs Robert P. Keep (Elizabeth V. Hale), N. Y. State, '94-'95, died very suddenly on Mar. 28. Since 1903, Mrs Keep had been principal of the Porter School for Girls at Farmington, Conn. Her active library career dates back to the period previous to her marriage in 1897. For more than 10 years she was librarian and treasurer of the Circulating library at Elizabethtown, N. Y., and

was also connected with several other libraries for short periods.

Space for a branch of the Public library is being prepared in the new municipal building in Rochester, N. Y. This branch will be a working collection of material helpful to business men, covering the important industries and occupations of the city. It will collect, arrange and make available material on municipal affairs. It will include material on political science, political economy, capital and labor, banks, finance, credit, engineering, business methods, advertising, etc.

The Genesee branch of the Public library of Rochester, N. Y., moved its 68,000v. in twenty-four hours, without suspension of library service. Boxes were provided to accommodate the capacity of a shelf. The books were lifted down from the old shelves and placed on the new in the same relative position they had occupied before. A special force worked late at night and early in the morning so that by the time the school children were ready to come, everything was in order and the staff was kept busy issuing books and cards to new subscribers.

A new branch of the Jersey City library was opened in February, in the southern part of the city. Two large stores were leased and altered for library purposes. The branch now contains about 7,000 volumes for circulation, a good collection of reference books for adults and a children's department. A reading room contains a good selection of current magazines and daily newspapers. The circulation for the first month was over 12,000 v. and the reading and reference rooms were well attended.

The location of the new branch is particularly good, just off from the main thoroughfare and adjacent to four of the largest schools in the city. There are four large show windows which have been utilized for displays of books and pictures.

The annual report of the Public library of Newark, N. J., written in the peculiar-

ly forceful and well chosen English of John Cotton Dana, makes clear to the reader what the library is, what it contains and what it does for Newark each year. The library is pictured as a store house of information, likened to one great dictionary and encyclopaedia combined, and easily worth its cost and far more valuable than its fairly modest income would lead the unthinking to suppose.

The library contains 245,607 books. It has nine branches, two in schools and one in a play ground. It has 7500 maps, 500,000 pictures, 1850 engravings and 60,000 extracts from newspapers, pamphlets, etc., on current topics. It contains 1200 journals and magazines and 1350 directories from all the great cities in the world.

The library lends for home use in a year 1,123,926 books; lends 84,500 pictures; it supplies more than 300 class room libraries; answers 7000 inquiries for information; instructs in the use of reference books and through its books instructs everybody how to do his work on scientific principles.

Central

Nora Cordingley has resigned as assistant cataloger at Iowa State college because of the ill health of her mother.

Leo Tiefenthaler, since 1911 municipal librarian of Milwaukee, has resigned his position to become Civic secretary of the City club of Milwaukee.

The annual report of the Public library of Steubenville, Ohio, records number of books in the library, 12,990v., books for home use, 85,245v., number of readers at the library, 77,171.

Emma G. Outhouse, N. Y. State, '15-'16, has been transferred from the cataloging department of the Public library, Evansville, Ind., to the West Side branch of which she is in charge.

Nellie G. Hewitt, Illinois, B. L. S., '04, who has been assistant librarian in the Wasco County library, The Dalles, Oregon, has resigned her position to return to her home in Indianapolis.

The Chicago public library is making preparations to abolish the 74 delivery stations and in their place to substitute 30 deposit stations where books may be chosen directly and immediately.

Eleanor E. Hawkins, Pratt '05, who has been studying at Chicago university for three years, received her degree in February and has accepted the position of head cataloger of the Chicago Historical Society library.

A bronze memorial tablet has been placed in the Public library of Dayton, Ohio, by the Montgomery County medical association, in commemoration of the life and services of the late Dr W. J. Conklin, for 36 years a member of the library board.

A recent action of the Iowa legislature in cutting the building appropriation for the three state educational institutions has caused the indefinite postponement of the new library building which was planned for the Iowa State college at Ames.

Laura Jane Gage, formerly of the Cincinnati public library and a graduate of the Wisconsin library school, has accepted a position in the Superior, Wis., public library to succeed Dorothea Heins. Miss Heins resigned her position to go to the Public library of Evansville, Ind.

The annual report of the Public library, Mason City, Iowa, records a growth in every department of the library. The total circulation for the year was 75,112v.; a total of 23,245v. were sent out through the school branches; the registered borrowers numbered 7708, 45 percent of the population of the city.

The annual report of the Public library of Davenport, Iowa, records a total circulation of 225,008 v; number of borrowers, 12,248, which is 25 per cent of the population of the city. Income, \$26,564. Expenditures, \$5,223 for books, \$8,068 for salaries, \$1,319 for binding and \$1,639 for janitor service. November 18-25 was Library week, spent in advertising the library, during which the business men of the city co-operated with

the library in every way. Total number of books in the library, 46,916.

The bond issue for an additional \$250,000 for the completion of the main library building in Detroit, Mich., was carried in a recent election. This is in addition to the \$750,000 which was allowed last November. The total cost of the building will be about \$1,600,000, which with the cost of the site, \$425,000, represents the expenditure for the main building.

The annual report of the Public library of Menominee, Mich., records the gain in five years—circulation, 45 percent; volumes on the shelves, 28 percent; borrowers, 101 percent. The report uses the circular diagram to show the minuteness of the library appropriation compared with the other interests of the town: schools, .31; streets, .10; library, .015. The same circle also shows the source of the income and the library's was \$7,397 and the disbursement was \$4,804. Of this latter \$1,063 was spent for books and \$1,965 for salaries. Invitation slips to use the library were distributed in the bills and pay envelopes of a number of concerns. Display exhibits in the windows were used with gratifying success. Sunday victrola concerts were held regularly twice a month all winter, with a total attendance of 1,305.

The annual report of the Public school library of Lansing, Michigan, for 1916, gives the total circulation as 112,066 v. Number of volumes on the shelves, 27,074.

The circulation of books in the children's department was 30,377 v., exclusive of the books distributed in the grade libraries. Story hour throughout the year averaged an attendance of 45 children.

The total expenditure was \$8072 of which \$2229 was spent for books, periodicals and binding and \$3841 for salaries.

South

The George Peabody college of teachers of Nashville, Tenn., has received a gift of \$180,000 from the Carnegie cor-

poration of New York, for a library building.

William Henry Sargeant who for almost 25 years had charge of the Public library of Norfolk, Va., died March 23. He was born near Morristown, N. J., in 1842, but spent nearly his whole life in the South.

Mr Sargeant belonged to the old school of librarians and was himself, a well educated, scholarly book lover, who appreciated to the full, the collection of books entrusted to his care. Librarians remember, with great pleasure, his courteous reception of them as, from time to time, they visited his library, and his charm of manner and speech which delighted them on the few occasions of Mr. Sargeant's attendance at the A. L. A. meetings.

The report of the Virginia state library, Richmond, Va., for the year 1916, shows the usual activities of the library. The last volume, No. 13, of the *Journals of the House of Burgesses*, was issued by the library. Appropriation has been made for the publication of the companion *Journals of the Council*. The *Bulletins* of the library for the year contained two notable numbers, Bibliography of Virginia, Part 1, and Virginia counties. The use of the library by persons outside of Richmond increased. The number of packages sent by the library, was 693, against 642 in the preceding year, each package containing an average of three books.

A special appropriation of \$1500 for binding, gave opportunity to do considerable work in the year.

The report of the department of Archives and history has again been added to the report of the State library, this having been vetoed by a former governor of the state. A law governing the matter was passed in the 1916 general assembly, so that now special material of historical value may be printed as part of the report, provided no report shall exceed 600 pages. The report this year, contains a list of Colonial soldiers of Virginia and is similar to the two lists of Revolutionary soldiers of Virginia,

published as parts of the State library reports in previous years. The list of Colonial soldiers of Virginia is also printed as a separate of 91 pages.

West

There are now 47 public libraries in South Dakota, 32 of which receive tax support; nearly 30 towns of 1000 or more population have public libraries, and four towns of less than 500 population.

The Denver public library has had a training class for five years to which admission is gained by competitive examination. Expansion of the work demands constantly more general assistants who are chosen from the training class while the heads of the departments are specially trained. There were 11 students admitted from a recent examination of 16. Qualifications varied from a high school course to a university degree.

Canada

The Public library, Moose Jaw, Canada, has received, as a loan for one year, 21 paintings from The National gallery of Canada at Ottawa. They represent the work of artists of Canadian birth or residence, and have been distributed among the reading rooms, adding a very attractive feature to the building.

Around the two main reading rooms panelling in oak and glass has been placed to display artistic reproductions of celebrated pictures. At present a series of about 150 war cartoons by the celebrated Dutch artist, Raemaekers, kindly loaned by the Regina public library, are on display, and when they are removed a series representing works in the great galleries of Europe will be shown. As there is no art gallery in the city, these displays are very popular and will undoubtedly foster a love for the beautiful that may some day be satisfied only with something more permanent. In one of the library basement rooms, the school authorities of the city are arranging an exhibit of children's work in art, household science and manual training. The library is thus serving a useful purpose in cultivating public appreciation of both the fine and the useful arts.